Compostela mayor 3rd local exec killed in a week

Story below, COL. I

4th 'oragon' beaten up by wife in Tabaco City

ANG MISIS KO ANG TUNAY NA ORAGON!
AFR

By Job Belen
PDI S. Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—It seems that women known for being demonstrative in this city, known for the deadly *tabac* (machete), are no longer

4TH "ORAGON"/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

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  BUSINESS /B1
- **NBI-CIDG word war over 2 girls' rescue**
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Monday, June 30, 2003 ★★★ 78 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 202 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Hogwash, Muslims say of US solon's antiterror advice

NEW YORK—A state senator has sparked a furor among American Muslims after he distributed a flier which suggested that the bodies of Muslim terrorists be buried with pig entrails to deter suicide attacks.

Guy Glodis, a Democrat in the Massachusetts state legislature, sent a flier to 39 colleagues recounting how US Gen. John Pershing ordered the execution of Muslim extremists in the Philippines in 1913.

According to the leaflet, Muslim terrorists were executed—apparently during the American "pacification" campaign in Mindanao—with bullets dipped in pig's blood; "then buried with pig's blood, entrails, etc."

The practice, according to the leaflet published by the Boston Globe newspaper, "instantly barred Muslims from paradise, dooming them to hell."

Muslims are forbidden by their religion from eating pork or having any contact with pigs.

"Maybe it is time for this segment of history to repeat itself, maybe in Iraq," the flier said, implying that such acts might discourage potential Muslim suicide bombers. "The question is, where do we find another Black Jack Pershing?"

According to the leaflet, news of the burials allegedly ordered by Pershing deterred other terrorist attacks for "the next 42 years."

Glodis told the Boston Globe of the leaflet: "I didn't write it. I just passed it along to my colleagues. I often share

HOGWASH/ A18

Pope: Celibacy rule stays

'It's a sign of priests' undivided love for God'

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II reaffirmed Saturday that priests must be celibate, rejecting calls that they be allowed to marry in the face of the dwindling number of people entering the priesthood and the recent sex scandals rocking the Roman Catholic Church.

In an extensive document about the role of Catholicism in European history, John Paul made it clear he had no intention of scrapping the Church's celibacy rule—a key issue in the debate over the sex scandals.

"Celibacy is esteemed in the whole Church as fitting for the priesthood," the Pope said in the 134-page document called "Ecclesia in Europa."

"(Celibacy) is a sign of the priest's undivided love for God and for his people," he added.

The numerous sex scandals that have hit the Church recently have prompted calls for a change in the rule on celibacy.

Critics have said celibacy is ultimately behind the scandals and that in a modern society inundated by sex, the line between repression and perversion can be a thin one. The Church has insisted there is no link between celibacy and pedophilia.

Those opposed to the celibacy rule have also said it has prevented some men, who may be deeply religious but would like to get married and be priests, from taking up the vocation.

The document acknowledged there were fewer and fewer men signing up for the priesthood, but

POPE/ A19

BEAUTY AND THE BLADE
Women wearing colorful costumes and wielding "tabak" (machetes), for which Tabaco City in Albay is known, dance in the streets during last week's celebration of the "Tabak Festival."
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Mike helps raise ₱2.5M to free RP seamen

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN THE EYES of ex-Ambassador Roy Señeres, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's birthday party last Friday was one of a kind.

Señeres, the National Labor Relations Commission chief, said the wives, mothers and sisters of the 23 Filipino seamen detained in an Abu Dhabi jail trooped to Arroyo's party at the Wack Wack Golf Club in Mandaluyong City to make one final appeal: raise P2.5 million more for the release of their men.

They got their wish.

Señeres said that Arroyo, celebrating his 57th birthday, asked his guests to help "23 suffering families," who needed a total of P7.5 million, in lieu of gifts to him.

Among those who responded were Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo and Ambassador to Laos Antonio Cabangon Chua. In all, they contributed P2.5 million. Arroyo had earlier raised P5 million.

The total amount will cover the unpaid loans their employer had duped them into signing with several banks in the United Arab Emirates.

The banks want the P7.5 million in exchange for the seamen's freedom.

Part of the amount came from Arroyo's pockets after he sponsored several golf tournaments for his charity work, including the 23 seamen's case, according to Señeres.

Arroyo, he said, could have deliberately made his party "spartan," to add the savings to the fund-raising.

"It was very simple," Señeres said. "He had only his family and a handful of guests. Dishes were simple and they even ran out, I think."

Before Arroyo and his guests, the women recounted the ordeal of the seamen who have been languishing in jail since 2000.

Fatima Agustin, spokesperson for the seamen's families, said the ordeal started when

MIKE/ A18

Albay priest, parishioners weep over sex scandals

By Michael Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Albay Cathedral yesterday became an accidental portrait of a church in pain, after parishioners responded to the officiating priest's emotional homily by breaking into tears.

Fr. Jovic Lobrigo was delivering his homily when his voice broke. When he started to weep, some of those attending the Mass wept, too.

Lobrigo admitted to his parishioners that the reason he cried was his sense of shame over the sex scandal issues involving bishops and priests, as reported in the newspapers and on television.

Lobrigo said that because of the scandals, he sensed that some parishioners were confused and may have lost their respect for the priesthood.

Later, Lobrigo told the INQUIRER he himself was very confused about the news.

"Who is really telling the truth?" he asked.

In his homily, he said Christians should walk toward holiness, because if it is done in humility, "God accepts and forgives our sins."

The Catholic Church marked the feast of Saints Peter and Paul yesterday. In his homily, Lobrigo

ALBAY/ A19

Sex case sows chaos at NLRC

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez
Contributor

HERE'S one labor relations case that will stump even the National Labor Relations Commission. Two men now claim to be the NLRC chair.

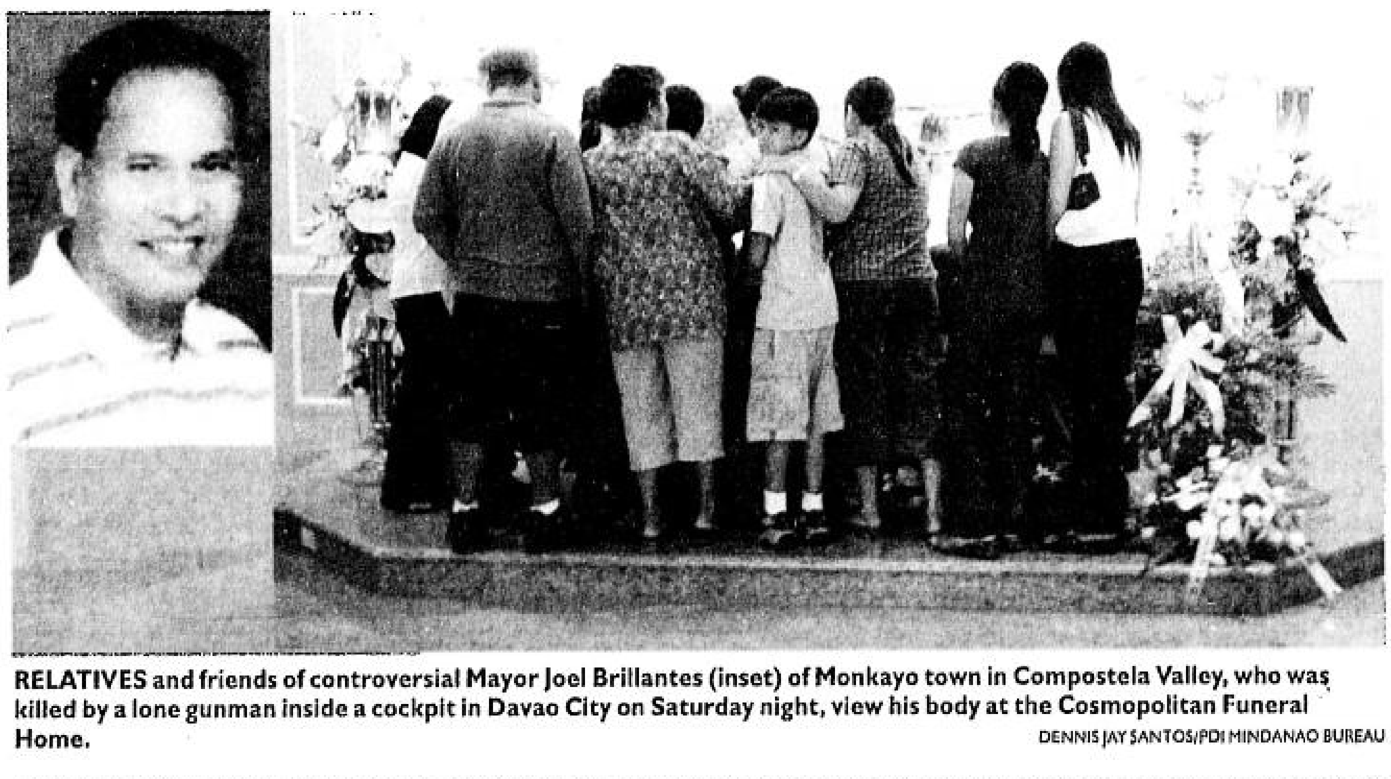
Former NLRC chief Rogelio Rayala, dismissed from office because of sexual harassment charges, is now reclaiming his old position.

In a letter to former Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Roy Señeres, who replaced him, Rayala told Señeres to "refrain effective today, from exercising the powers, duties and prerogatives of the Office as de facto Chairman of the (NLRC)." The letter was dated June 23.

Rayala said he received the decision of the Court of Appeals on June 13, which lowered his penalty from dismissal from service to a one-year suspension, the maximum penalty for sexual harassment.

SEX/ A18

Compostela Valley mayor 3rd to be killed in a week



RELATIVES and friends of controversial Mayor Joel Brillantes (inset) of Monkayo town in Compostela Valley, who was killed by a lone gunman inside a cockpit in Davao City on Saturday night, view his body at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Home.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

By Dennis Jay Santos and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A lone gunman killed the controversial mayor of gold-rich Monkayo town in Compostela Valley inside a cockpit here on Saturday night.

Mayor Joel Brillantes, 48, was shot twice in the head and brought to the Davao Doctors Hospital where he was declared dead. He was the third local chief executive to be killed in a week.

The suspect, identified as Anacito Dejeto, 33, of Barangay Tulali-an, Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, was also killed by one of the mayor's bodyguards.

On June 22, armed men believed to be communist rebels killed Mayor Guerrero Zaragoza of Tayug, Pangasinan while leaving a cockpit in the town. He was buried on Sunday amid calls for justice for his death.

Last Thursday, Mayor Moises Abraham of Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, was killed in an ambush by suspected members of the Moro National Liberation Front while leading a

COMPOSTELA/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/30/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Poison shabu, VACC suggests

By Christian V. Esguerra

MIX seized shabu with poison.

Believing these were tough times in the battle against drugs, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) has urged the government to adopt the toughest measures to keep unscrupulous law enforcers from selling confiscated drugs back in the streets.

VACC chair Dante Jimenez brought up the idea of using poison during last weekend's command conference called by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang to discuss the drug menace.

"If we are really serious in this campaign," Jimenez said, "we should avoid the recycling of illegal drugs."

He suggested that shabu and other illegal substances be mixed with cyanide immediately after confiscation, in the presence of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency operatives, government prosecutors and witnesses.

This would keep crooked law enforcers from appropriating part of the evidence for subsequent sale, or for their own use.

Anti-crime groups have strongly denounced the reported recycling of illegal drugs by some agents of the defunct NarcGroup of the Philippine National Police.

Last year, even the National Bureau of Investigation came under fire after an employee allegedly stole from its evidence vault around seven kilos of shabu, part of 247 kilos seized from convicted drug queen Sandra Lim in Pasay City three years ago.

The President's renewed war on drugs was given the thumbs-up yesterday by Sen. Vicente Sotto, who said she was on the right track for keeping the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Dangerous Drugs Board on top of the operations.

With this move, the opposition senator said, Ms Macapagal had heeded the mandate of the law that created the two agencies. "I think the President's advisers have been hearing us (on this matter)," Sotto, one of the original authors of the law, told the INQUIRER.

Anti-drug junta

He was referring to earlier criticisms against a proposed new body to head the anti-drug drive. On Saturday the President announced the creation of "an anti-drug junta" led by Interior Secretary Jose Lina, PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido and police anti-drug task force chief Gen. Edgardo Aglipay.

Lina currently chairs the DDB and Avenido heads the PDEA.

Sen. Robert Barbers, former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and retired police official Lucio Margallo, earlier touted as Ms Macapagal's "aces," were left out of the official appointments. The fourth "ace," retired police official Reynaldo Jaylo, will be assigned to PDEA as director II.

If Lim and "the others" wanted to help, Sotto said, the President could likewise appoint them to the two agencies.

"My unsolicited advice to the President is that it doesn't really matter who heads the campaign as long as its thrust and direction are correct and under the mandate of the law," he said.

The senator also urged the President to focus, as the law prescribes, on drug abuse intervention, with "illegal drugs reduction program" as secondary objective. Meaning, emphasis should be on rehabilitation and drug abuse prevention through education.

"Even if you intercept all the shabu in the country, there will be other forms of drugs that can be abused like solvents and cough syrups," Sotto pointed out. He cited studies that showed a 65 percent success rate in rehabilitation efforts.

He said "empirical data" proved that rehabilitation was possible via treatment, rather than via the apprehension of drug pushers.

As the need arises

Meanwhile, with Jaylo going on board at the PDEA, what will happen to Barbers, Lim and Margallo?

"They will be consulted as the need arises," Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said. "I know they (have been) invited to join operating agencies."

Bunye made the statement over RMN radio a day after Malacañang clarified that the government's renewed war on illegal drugs would be waged principally by line agencies.

What was important, he said, was that all parties who wanted to help were welcome. For instance, he said, Lim's advice was "highly regarded" by the PDEA.

Bunye said that the Palace's clarification on the lead role of existing line agencies was "consistent with the law," and that "the President wants sharing of strategies, intelligence and resources."

Framework

Asked about the three-month deadline Ms Macapagal reportedly gave PDEA, Bunye explained that it was just a "framework."

"What the President wants is substantial achievement in 90 days," he said. "It doesn't mean that after 90 days, the government will stop its anti-drug operations."

The problem is deep and far-reaching, indeed, as Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, vice chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs, illustrated in the case of the Land Transportation Office's new requirements for driver's license applicants. *With Christine O. Avendano and Carlito Pablo*

Cop chief probed for link to car theft gang

THE DEPARTMENT of Interior and Local Government is investigating the possible involvement of the San Fernando, La Union police chief in carnapping.

DILG Secretary Joey Lina said Supt. Rolando Macusi is under investigation by Task Force Jericho, the DILG's anti-crime operating arm, after Macusi's wife, Dulce, was tagged as the mastermind of a car theft syndicate by an alleged member of the gang, who was arrested last week.

"Macusi should shed light on the activities of his wife and cooperate with the task force in their investigation," Lina said.

Task Force Jericho members arrested Domingo Cunanan, a former policeman and suspected syndicate member, at his home in Angeles City last Wednesday afternoon.

Chief Insp. Eduardo Villena, TF Jericho chief investigator, said Cunanan readily identified Dulce Macusi, who is at large, as his source of stolen vehicles. He said Superintendent Macusi's name cropped up several times during the investigation.

Villena said Dulce Macusi's modus operandi was to pose as the finance officer of a construction firm in need of private vehicles to hire for its foreign consultants. *Nelson Flores*

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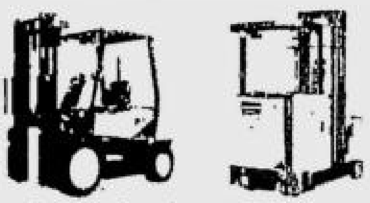

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JDV has Palace blessing to broker peace with communists

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday welcomed the direct hand taken by Speaker Jose de Venecia to move the stalled peace negotiations with the communist-led National Democratic Front forward.

De Venecia has initiated informal talks with NDF leaders in the Netherlands, where he was joined by Silvestre Bello, chair of the government peace panel, and Tarlac Gov. Jose Yap. Last week, they were joined by Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser for special concerns, in the mission that Bello said was cleared and authorized by Malacañang.

"They're trying to push negotiations for a possible reopening," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said over radio station RMN.

Bunye added the Palace had yet to hear from the group but "there are earnest efforts to reopen the talks."

"The trip (to Amsterdam) of Speaker De Venecia is a welcome development," Bunye said, but Bello remains the government's lead man in the negotiations.

The Macapagal administration is proposing the acceptance of a single final peace agreement with the NDF.

According to established procedure, the two parties are supposed to come up with separate accords on social and economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, and disposition of forces.

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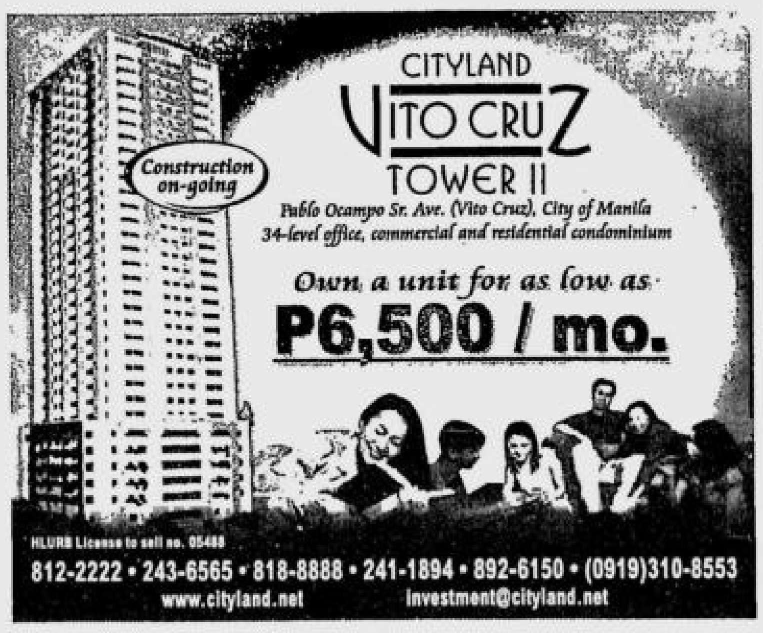

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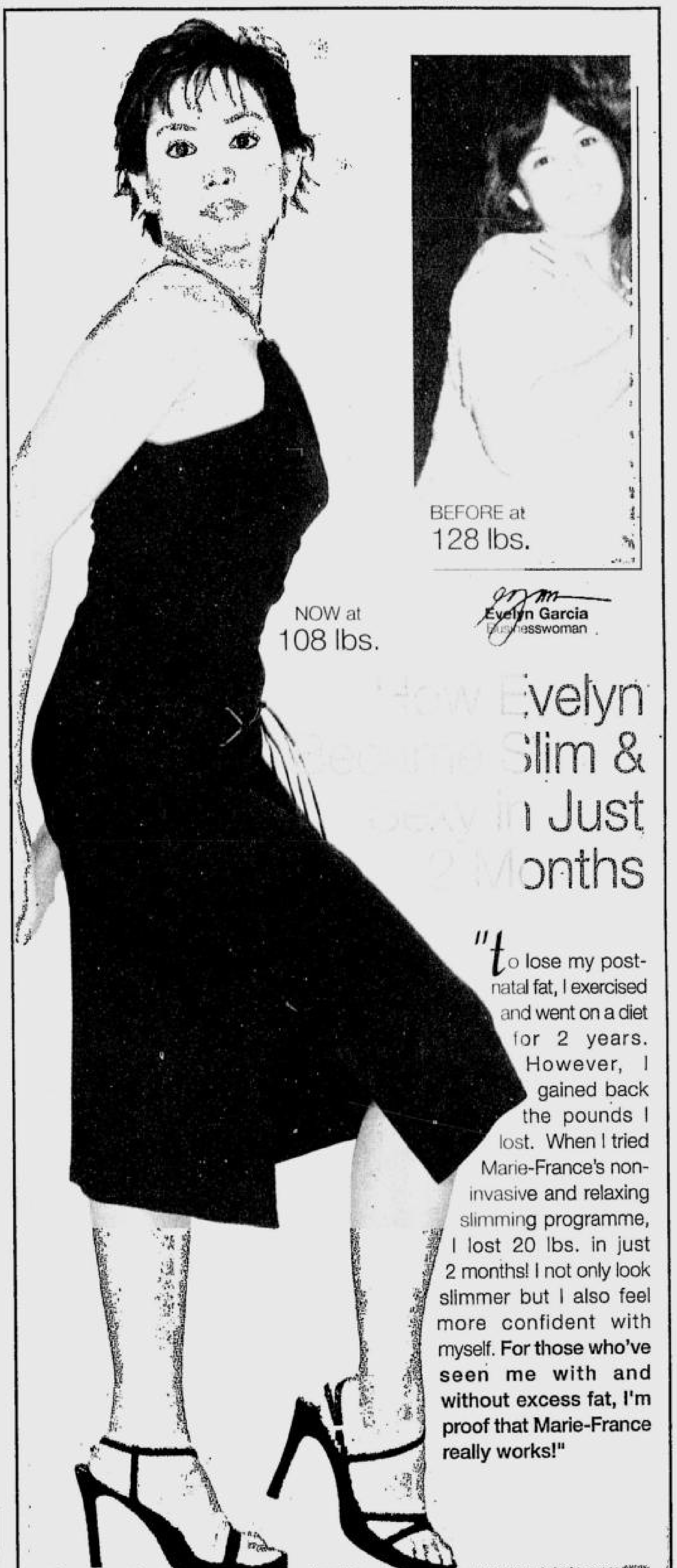

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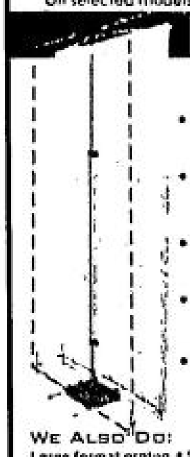

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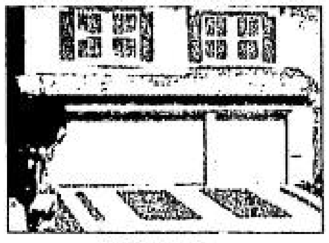

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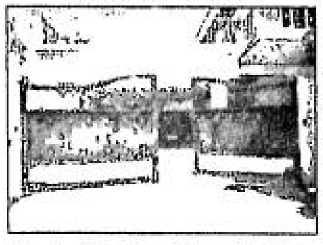

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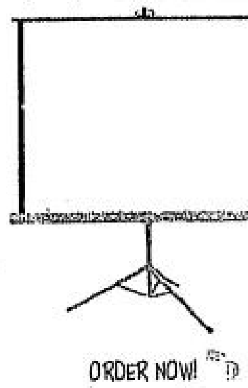

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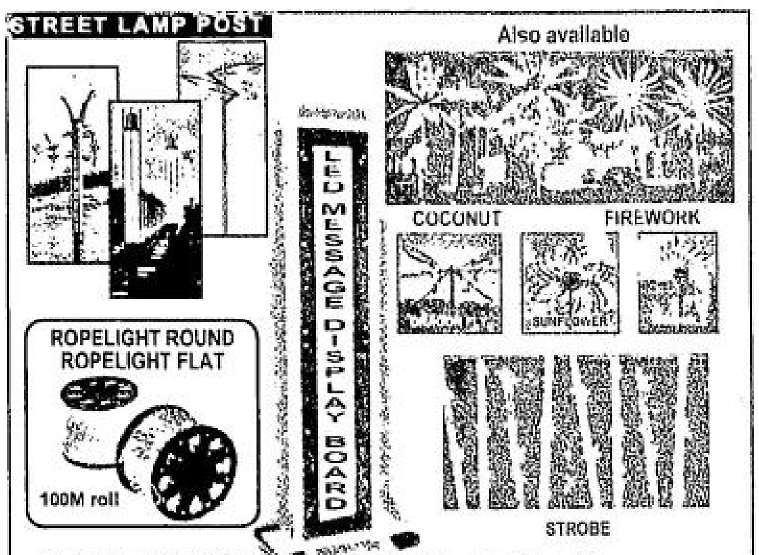

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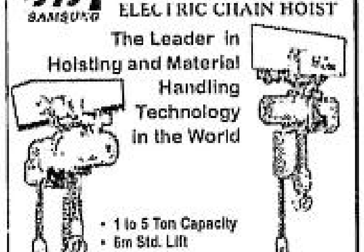

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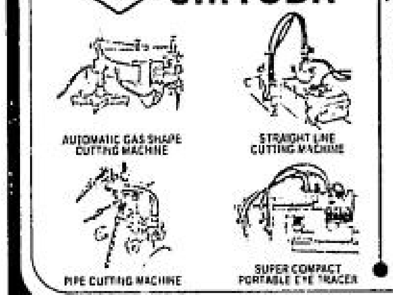
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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of Stockholders of PetroEnergy Resources Corporation will be held at Rooms 527-528, YIAS, 5th Floor, Podium 4, RCBC Plaza Building, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City on 17 July 2003 at 3:00 pm.

The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

(1) Certification of Notice and Quorum;
(2) Determination of Quorum/Call to Order;
(3) Approval of Minutes of the last Special Stockholders' Meeting held on 14 March 2003;
(4) Approval of Management Report and the 2002 Audited Financial Report contained in the 2002 Annual Report;
(5) Confirmation and Ratification of all acts, contracts and investment made and entered into by Management and/or Board of Directors during the period of 14 March 2003 and 17 July 2003;
(6) Election of Seven (7) members of the Board of Directors for the year 2003-2004;
(7) Appointment of External Auditors;
(8) Adjournment.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 12 June 2003 as the Record Date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Regular Meeting of Stockholders. Accordingly, only the stockholders of record as of Record Date will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 2 of the Company's By-Laws, for purposes of election to the Board of Directors, any and all nominations shall be submitted to and received at the principal office of the corporation on or before July 03, 2003, 5:00 p.m. and addressed to the attention of the Corporate Secretary.

(Sgd.) GUIA SANTOS- QUA
Corporate Secretary

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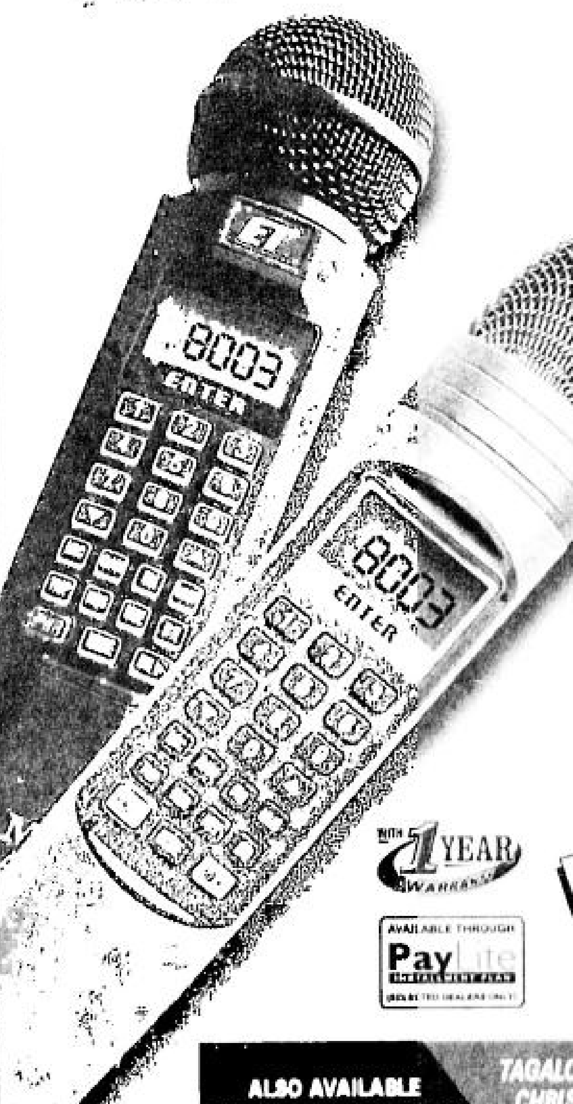

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Leyte anticipates Bush visit in Oct.

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Tourism Undersecretary Rolando Reyes said Friday there was a "very good" chance US President George W. Bush might visit Leyte during his state visit to the Philippines in October.

Reyes told the INQUIRER that White House protocol personnel had asked about historical sites in the country that President Bush could visit.

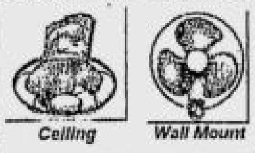
"We recommended Corregidor and Leyte," he said, adding "there is a very good chance they will approve our recommendation."

Palo town in Leyte, 12 kilometers from this city, was the site of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's famous landing on Oct. 20, 1944 that fulfilled his "I shall return" pledge made to Filipinos at the start of World War II.

McArthur's return signaled the start of the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese army.

A life-size monument of the American general stands at the Government Center in Barangay Baras in Palo. This is where the annual commemoration of MacArthur's historic landing is held.

Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla said she was keeping her fingers crossed President Bush would visit the province.



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GMA asks Bush to hike US grant to local war vets

STRIKING while the iron is hot, President Macapagal-Arroyo has asked US President George W. Bush to restore the assistance provided by the US government to Filipino war veterans to levels before the US bases were kicked out of the Philippines in 1991.

At the same time, the Philippine embassy in Washington announced the approval by the US House Committee on Veterans Affairs of a bill extending nursing home and national cemetery benefits to Filipino veterans living in the US.

In a letter to Bush, Ms Macapagal asked for a $2-million increase in the grant-in-aid allocated for the Philippine Veterans Memorial Medical Center. The veterans hospital in Quezon City currently receives a $500,000 US grant-in-aid.

A US Veterans Regional Office has likewise been set up in Manila.

"The additional $2 million would serve to restore the assistance level provided by the US government to veterans residing in the Philippines, which was withdrawn with the closure of the US bases in 1991," the President told Bush in the letter.

"We are confident that you share with us the recognition that this reinstatement would be in the best interest of fairness to our World War II veterans," she added.

As this developed, Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario announced the approval at the committee level of US House Resolution No. 2357, expanding health care benefits to certain Filipino veterans of World War II who are legally residing in the United States. *Norman Bordadora*

Dante Tan case bedevils Aussie lawmakers

By Christine O. Avendaño

"DANTE'S Inferno."

That is what the immigration scandal involving fugitive Chinese-Filipino businessman Dante Tan in Australia has become in that country's parliament, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

The reference is to poet Dante Alighieri's vivid description of the many levels of hell.

Drilon returned Saturday from a five-day visit to Canberra with Senators Juan Flavier and John Osmeña. They were invited by the Australian Parliament.

In a statement, Drilon said the controversy involving Tan, who is wanted in Manila for stock fraud, was being reported widely in Australian newspapers days before they arrived there.

Drilon said he, Flavier and Osmeña later witnessed the "intense and rowdy debate" among members of the Australian Parliament on the Tan case.

The Question Hour of the Australian Parliament which dealt with the controversy last June 26 was attended by the three senators, where the debate lasted for 30 minutes.

Tan's case in Australia involves the granting of a business visa, and later citizenship, to the Chinoy trader after he allegedly donated A$10,000 to the campaign coffers of the Liberal Party through Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock.

The opposition Labor Party accused the ruling Liberal Party of trading visas for political donations.

Drilon said that during the Question Hour, a member of the Labor Party disclosed that a friend of Ruddock's had received A$220,000 in lobby money from Tan to settle the latter's visa problem.

Drilon said opposition Immigration spokesperson Julia Gillard alleged that Tan had paid Karim Kirswani, a Sydney political leader, to lobby Ruddock.

The Labor Party then sought to censure Ruddock for his failure to explain properly his connections to Kirswani or Tan.

The Labor Party also claimed Ruddock had made an undisclosed donation of several thousand dollars to the campaign of his party mate, Ross Cameron, in October 2001.

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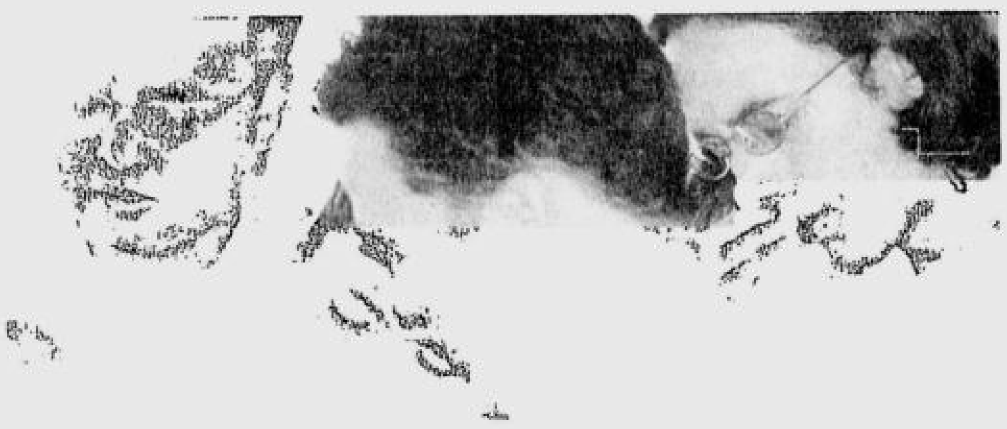

CAYETANO LAID TO REST
The children of the late Sen. Renato Cayetano, from left, Alan Peter, Pia, Rene and Lino, bid him farewell at his interment yesterday at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park in Pateros, Rizal. Cayetano died last Tuesday at the age of 68 of abdominal cancer. JESS YUSON

Guingona takes Cha-cha fight to the youth

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona has taken his fight against Charter change to the youth of the land.

Telling Girl Scouts in Quezon province that proposed amendments to the Constitution include the lifting of limits on foreign ownership of property in the Philippines, Guingona said, "If we allow Cha-cha to take place, we might as well change our national anthem from Lupang Hinirang to Lupang Nahiram at Nabili (Land Borrowed and Bought)."

Guingona addressed a gathering of 300 Girl Scouts at the investiture of the new officers of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Quezon Provincial Council, at the Queen Margarette Court restaurant in Lucena City.

Before that, he addressed students of the Quezon National High School where he told them that if President Manuel L. Quezon were alive today, "he would surely resist the attempts to lift the Constitution's protective cover on the national patrimony."

Guingona also told the Girl Scouts, "it is not true foreign investments will come in only if foreigners were allowed to own land in the Philippines."

"Our existing laws already provide more than enough incentives, including the grant of long-term leases and attractive co-production arrangements like the Malampaya natural gas project in Palawan that allow well-meaning foreign companies to have profitable operations here while transferring technology to their Filipino partners," Guingona said.

Guingona has launched a movement to fight the move to amend the 1987 Constitution through a proposed constituent assembly, which he said might tinker with Article 12 of the Constitution on the "National Economy and Patrimony."

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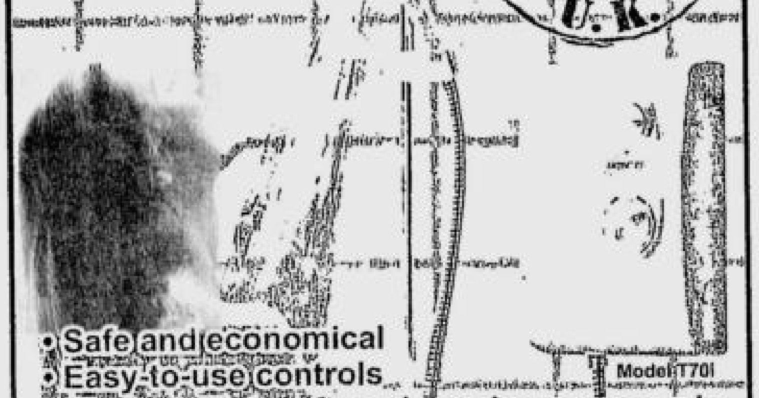

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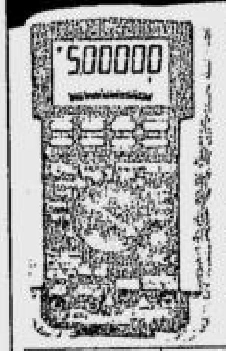

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EU bars RP fish exports

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has admitted that Philippine fish exports to the European Union have been banned by the European Commission.

Malcolm Sarmiento, director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources said, however, the suspension was temporary and would probably be lifted in July. He said the ban would not adversely affect the local fish industry.

"Fortunately for us, the months of June and July are lean months for exports of aquaculture products. The exportation of these products will be at its peak from September to November," Sarmiento said.

Three shipments of Philippine prawns have been accepted at EU ports in Hamburg, Germany, and in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, however, as these were in transit when the EC slapped the suspension on local fish products, Sarmiento said.

The EC banned local fish exports after initial reports submitted by the government to the commission on the toxicity of Philippine exports proved to be inadequate.

Sarmiento said the EC had asked the Philippine government to submit a monitoring report and documents to determine if there were traces of chloropenical or antibiotic substances in the Philippine exports.

Sarmiento said the government complied with the request on June 16.

The Philippine fish products include prawns, milkfish and tilapia.

Lepanto exec says firm owes him ₱3.2M

BECAUSE it failed to pay him P1.2 million as the court ordered two years ago, a former executive of Lepanto Consolidated Mines said the company now owes him ₱3.2 million.

The National Labor Relations Commission and the Court of Appeals had both ruled that Ariel Bautista had been illegally fired in 1998. He had worked with the company for 11 years and was purchasing manager at the time of his dismissal.

Lepanto was ordered to reinstate Bautista a year later and, in April 2001, to pay him P1.2 million in back wages and damages.

Bautista said the company had yet to comply with both orders, and that the total amount due him had thus tripled as of June 2003.

The NLRC has issued two writs of execution, the latest being last April 28. Instead of complying, Bautista said, Lepanto harassed him by demanding in a letter dated June 30, 2003 the "return" of ₱494,139 which lawyers claimed he had defrauded the company of through the purchase of overpriced cement in 1998.

Bautista said the issue of the cement purchase had been "amply discussed" in the NLRC and CA decisions.

Bautista was fired on Aug. 8, 1998 on grounds allegedly arising from "poor judgment and supervising skills," leading to "loss of trust and confidence." He filed a complaint with the NLRC three months later, on Nov. 12, for illegal suspension and illegal dismissal.

Gerald G. Lacuarta

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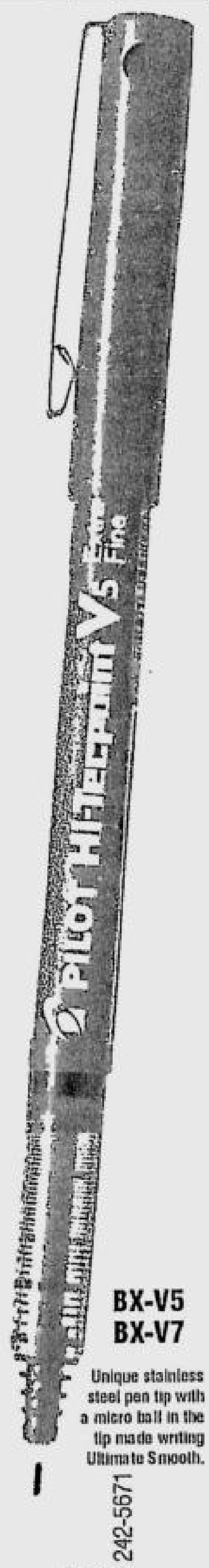

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Vol. 18 No. 202
ISSN 0116-2642

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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In all but name

EDITORIAL

THE DECISION by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, to question the use of San Miguel Corp. funds to bankroll a high-profile television campaign featuring SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, focuses attention once again on ads which are political in all but name.

The PCGG's officer in charge, Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr., told reporters on Thursday:

"We have instructed our five directors to take the matter up in the SMC board of directors meeting. We are hopeful the other directors will also take the matter up. It is a legitimate concern."

We agree.

The official line from SMC's media affairs office is by-the-book, and ultimately unconvincing. "Corporate endorsements by company CEOs (chief executive officers) is a common practice here and abroad and is considered a cost-efficient marketing tool. It is only appropriate for Mr. Cojuangco, whose name is synonymous to (*sic*) the success of SMC and (its) subsidiaries, to endorse the product and to highlight a milestone in the company's history," the company statement read.

The milestone is the change in name of an SMC subsidiary, La Tondeña Distillers Inc., to Ginebra San Miguel Inc., after the subsidiary's most popular product.

The practice is, in truth, common enough; perhaps the most famous example was Lee Iacocca of Chrysler. But SMC, which celebrated its centennial in 1990, has never featured its CEO in any commercial advertisement; in fact, the company is known for turning already famous personalities—such as actor Fernando Poe Jr., boxer Flash Elorde, billiards player Bata Reyes, and comic Bert Marcelo—into iconic figures through its advertising.

The use of Cojuangco in the TV spot, therefore, is highly unusual. Coming at a time when congressmen from both the Nationalist People's Coalition he heads and the Lakas-CMD party he is allied with are urging him to run for President again, the commercial cannot but be perceived as an attempt to raise Cojuangco's profile and boost his political stock. At no cost to him, of course, since everything is paid for out of the considerable advertising budget of the sequestered company or its subsidiary.

The sequestration controversy that has afflicted San Miguel, one of the country's largest companies, is already 17 years old. Does Cojuangco think enough time has passed for the public to forget the ill-gotten wealth accusations against him? The PCGG believes Cojuangco and his associates used the notorious coconut levy fund to buy into SMC when Ferdinand Marcos was still president. Litigation is ongoing, and the PCGG directly controls five of the 15 board seats. Another three seats the PCGG used to control are now in use by Cojuangco, although technically these remain in dispute.

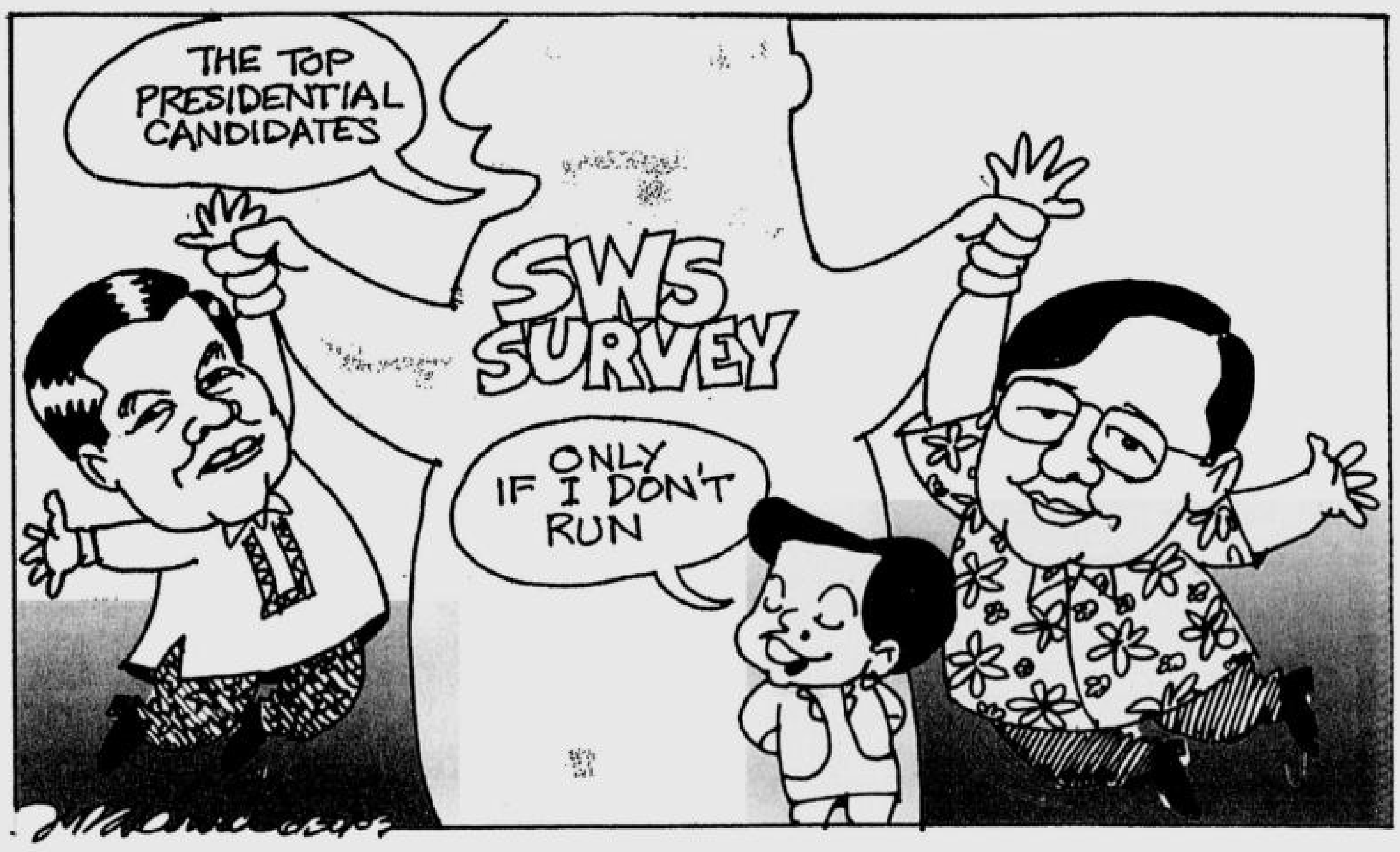
At the very least, these facts make any TV campaign featuring Cojuangco an exercise in bad taste. The spot is on the same low level as those featuring various Cabinet secretaries, such as Manuel Dayrit of Health and Vincent Perez of Energy, which use government funds to ostensibly promote government programs while conveniently promoting themselves. And it is similar to the flag-waving commercials masquerading as public service announcements featuring Sen. John Osmeña.

The use of public funds is at issue. (And while the sequestration cases are pending, San Miguel can only be regarded as a public institution, accountable as any other government-owned corporation.)

To be scrupulously fair, however, Cojuangco's TV commercial does not yet put him in the same category as administration stalwart Sen. Juan Flavier. As far as we can tell, Cojuangco's rather melodramatic pass-the-glass monologue is grounded in fact.

But in search of ever greater popularity, the former "doctor to the barrios" has done the country a disservice. After extolling the virtues of a particular multi-vitamin, he is now peddling another product, ostensibly because it will help fight cancer.

This is an astounding claim. As a medical doctor, Flavier should know that assertions like these are best viewed with skepticism. That he has allowed himself to make such a dubious pitch is yet more proof that the use of advertising that is political in all but name corrupts the character of those who mistake popularity for political qualification.



Lawmen fighting each other, not the drug pushers

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

A WAR over illegal drugs is now raging. Law enforcement officers are fighting one another for turf and title. Drug lords must be laughing their heads off.

Administrator Anselmo Avenido of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), resents media's calling Sen. Robert Barbers the "anti-drug czar." He doesn't want the Barbers team to be called "The Untouchables" either, after the Federal Bureau of Investigation's team led by Elliot Ness that broke the Al Capone gang and sent the slippery gangster to jail. "There will be no 'Untouchables' here. Everybody will take orders from me. Moi!" he said in effect.

How petty. What's in a name? That which we call a "czar," by any other name will smell as sweet if he succeeds against the drug lords. But he will still stink to high heavens if he fails.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Barbers himself has links to a drug lord. And some Metro Manila mayors, especially Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, doesn't want his predecessor, Alfredo Lim, to resume his favorite hobby: painting. *Bakit naman?* Maybe Lim just wants to be named National Artist. And considering the bimbos that are being named National Artists lately, he may just be the next awardee for painting.

The infighting made President Macapagal-Arroyo lose her famous temper again and burst out that the anti-drug war needs teamwork, not infighting.

But for all her reputation as a *taray* queen, she hesitates to put her foot down and fire those who refuse to be team players. If subordinates refuse to obey her decisions and respect her appointments, then she should replace them with others who will. *Sino ba ang* boss *dito?*

On whose side are these faultfinders anyway? It seems they love the drug lords and pushers more than they love their victims. "Human rights! Human rights!" they cry. But what about the rights of the victims of these criminals? They have rights, too. In fact, they should have more of these than the criminals.

A person has rights only until he encroaches on the rights of others. Nobody has the right to victimize young people and ruin their lives. The rights left to those criminals are the last rites and the last meal before execution.

Extraordinary situations need extraordinary solutions. The bleeding hearts fear that the Barbers-Lim-Jaylo-Margallo team will resort to "extra-legal" means to fight the drug lords. Well, it is precisely the legal system, with all its faults, that is being used by the drug lords to frustrate government efforts to stop them.

With all the money they squeeze from their victims, they can hire high-priced lawyers who use tricks, bribery, influence and legal maneuvers to delay cases against their clients and spring them from jail. Corrupt judges are only too willing to cooperate with them, for millions of reasons.

It is no secret that all the government anti-narcotics agencies, the PDEA, the Dangerous Drugs Board, the Philippine National Police, have failed to curb the spread of the drug trade. On the contrary, by their own admission, it has prospered and the number of its victims have increased tremendously.

Congress has passed a harsher anti-drugs law. But before the drug pushers can be penalized under this law, they have first to be arrested and convicted in court. And that is precisely what the present legal system cannot do: convict them quickly. How many drug suspects have been freed on technicalities, inefficient policemen, lackadaisical prosecutors and lenient judges? Drug offenses are now non-bailable, so the drug syndicates just bribe the jailers to let their people escape. Drugs are now being sold inside jails and even manufactured right inside Muntinlupa. How can this happen if some prison officials have not succumbed to temptation?

So what are you going to do in such a situation if you are the President? You will turn for help from people who have successfully fought the drug lords in the past. And that is why the President has turned to Barbers and his comrades-in-arms for help.

And they were ready and willing to help fight their old nemesis. Lim immediately contacted mayors known for their tough stance against criminality for aid in the anti-drug campaign: Mayors Rodrigo Duterte of Davao, Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa, Tomas Joson of Cabanatuan, and Vicente Emano of Cagayan de Oro. They were all raring to go. Until the faultfinders, bellyachers and bleeding hearts threw cold water on their ardor. On whose side are they anyway?

Is this the usual crab mentality? They are afraid the Barbers team will shine at their expense? No, they just don't want drug pushers to be shot, they said.

To which Col. Reynaldo Jaylo replied truthfully: "If they resist and fight, why not? Should the law enforcers wait to be shot first?"

Yes, why not? And anyway, the mass executions they fear may not be necessary. A few corpses here and there for a few nights may be enough to scare the pushers to lie low till the heat cools off. Then drugs will be scarce in the streets and the price will shoot up. Then those who are not rich won't be able to afford it and would be forced to quit or at least turn to other not-so-dangerous drugs such as marijuana, which may also be addictive but does not addle the brain.

Shabu, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, tobacco and alcohol are all addictive. The first four are illegal. Tobacco and alcohol are not. But tobacco causes lung cancer and alcohol causes liver cancer. Marijuana does neither, as far as is known.

Lies

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BY the standards of most other nations in the world, especially the Third World ones, it seemed like a minor thing. That was Watergate, the scandal that booted Richard Nixon out of office.

The case stemmed from the arrest in June 1972 of five men who tried to bug the Democrat headquarters in Watergate Hotel—whence the name of the incident came from. One of the men turned out to be a CIA operative working for the Nixon reelection campaign. A $25,000 cashier's check from the Nixon reelection funds wound up in his bank account.

The issue did not hurt Nixon's bid to get reelected. In fact, he won a second term in November that year by a landslide, a contrast with the way he won his first one four years before when he beat Hubert Humphrey by the slimmest of margins. But it did hurt his image afterward, with awesome swiftness. One by one, his aides got implicated in the burglary, the Washington Post's Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein doing a magnificent job turning out exposé after exposé.

Nixon began firing his aides, or they began resigning, whichever came first. That did not take the heat off him. He was known to have recorded every conversation he had at the White House, and so Congress demanded the tapes of one conversation it thought shed light on the case. Nixon refused at first, but later turned over a heavily censored one, citing national security as the reason for the deletions. By then, the public had been roused to indignation by the White House's evasiveness and obvious attempts at cover-up.

.In August 1974, barely two years after reelection, Nixon resigned, becoming the first US president to do so.

I remember those days very well because they happened shortly before and after martial law. That was pretty much the only thing the martial law regime allowed to be printed freely. I don't know that it helped Marcos' cause any. The events that were taking place in the United States showed the best that democracy could be, and many Filipinos who had just lost it, took heart from it. There was a sense of exhilaration even in these parts about what people could do if they put their minds to it. They could even bring down the most powerful man in the world—over an issue of vital consequence to the conduct of governments.

That issue was honesty. Leaders who lied had no business being leaders.

That was then, this is now. Thirty years later, the change has been oceanic.

The issue then and now is pretty much the same. The president of the United States today stands accused of lying. If there's any difference at all between then and now, it is only in that the scale of George W. Bush's lie is vaster than Nixon's. Nixon lied about a burglary, Bush lied about a war. Or more specifically, Bush lied about the reasons for a war. He said the United States needed to go to war because it was being gravely and imminently threatened by a hostile country, which had weapons of mass destruction. As is obvious now, that was, to use Mark Twain's description about news of his death, grossly exaggerated.

As is even more obvious now, it was a deception the president mounted with the help of America's top civilian and military officials. Like Watergate.

Bush did take the tack of pushing for "regime change" late last year, arguing that that was a compelling reason to invade Iraq. But when that did not sit well with the American public—it conjured images of Vietnam, the American people trying to foist a democracy on the unwilling at the cost of American lives and taxpayers' money—Bush promptly went back to his weapons-of-mass-destruction pitch. It was the only thing the American public would buy, given the paranoia spawned by 9/11.

The evidence on both sides of the Atlantic, the other side being Tony Blair's favorite place, now shows that the case for Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, the paramount justification for the war, was manipulated big time. By Bush, his friends in the Pentagon, and his aides—who include some pretty creepy characters, alternating as Pentagon advisers and board members of giant corporations, who look like recycled versions of Nixon's own old gang.

What has changed however is the American character. Despite the fact that the occupation force in Iraq has found no weapons of mass destruction, the prime reason Bush conscripted America into war, most Americans continue to approve of him, thankful the war has been short and believing they are turning Iraq from a tyranny to a democracy. (The Pew survey of world attitudes, though, shows a near-universal plunge in American credibility abroad.)

More breathtakingly, the American media resemble the intimidated one of Joe McCarthy's time than the feisty one of Richard Nixon's time. The sea change may be gauged in the fact that the press in Nixon's time produced the term "investigative journalism" while the press in Bush's time produced the term "embedded journalism." A chasm yawns between those two concepts. The deepest irony of all is that Woodward whose name has become synonymous with "investigative journalism," wrote a flattering account of Bush in a book called "Bush at War," lending his name to the worst of all journalisms, which is the "embedded" one.

Watergate, which brought a president of the United States into utter disgrace, arose because of one thing: the president lied. And so brought the nation to shame. George W. Bush has done even worse. He has lied. And so brought the nation to war. Nixon was impeached because he did. Bush continues to enjoy public support notwithstanding that he did. Then the American public thought a president who lies cannot be counted upon to do anything right.

Today the public believes that a president who lies can be counted upon to bring democracy to another country.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Combinations

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RECENT INQUIRER front-page story about the heroism and bravery of two policemen and a soldier's wife who fought back the NPA in two separate attacks in Eastern Samar is the stuff of which movies are made. The two policemen repulsed a big group of NPA attacking their police station while the soldier's wife, visiting her husband, picked up her husband's M-16 and started firing at the NPA after it slew him in an attack on his remote Army outpost, only to die herself, too. Her heroism recalls American movies where frontier women would repulse Indian attacks themselves.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, noting the vulnerability of remote military outposts, wants "swift forcible action" versus the rebels. Swift response will entail adequate communication equipment to enable the attacked units to call for help, and Sikorsky helicopters at least at the brigade level for fast punitive action, neither of which the military has. By contrast, the NPA rebels attacking the police station had powerful radio sets that enabled them to set up blocking forces on the road.

* * *

I read about a recent gathering of business executives in Makati where the seeming consensus was to push for a businessman who could run the country "like a corporation" after all manner of presidents have been tried. Obviously some were pushing for San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo Cojuangco for president. The problem, however, is that running the country "like a corporation" may fly in the face of protests lodged by coconut farmers' groups with the PCGG about the way the SMC management is violating its by-laws with recent advertisements of Ginebra San Miguel. They argue that while these ads are paid for by funds of this publicly listed corporation, they give prominent political exposure to Cojuangco whose supporters are actively campaigning for him.

* * *

The coconut farmers have long claimed owning 47 percent of SMC shares that were allegedly bought with coconut levy funds extracted from them during the martial law years. Now they are protesting that SMC's by-laws are being violated by those ads since Article III Section 8 expressly makes it a duty of the board of directors, "To...ensure that the Corporation shall not engage in partisan political activities." The farmers' groups stress that this duty necessarily includes prohibiting use of SMC funds and assets for partisan political activity. Such use also goes against good corporate governance that SMC has sworn to uphold before the SEC.

Good corporate governance seems to have also been violated in the United Coconut Planters Bank, which was set up by Cojuangco and Marcos totally with coconut levy funds in the martial law years. Insiders whisper that UCPB appears to have been so burdened with loans obtained by the group identified with Cojuangco without collateral (reports say as much as P10 billion such loans have been initially uncovered), that a P20-billion bailout is being mulled by the government.

* * *

At a recent gathering, the hot topic was the dramatic rise in the net satisfaction rating of GMA in the recent SWS survey. The near-unanimous reaction was that GMA will now run for sure, and one guy added that when US President Bush comes in October, *lalo pang aakyat si* Gloria.

* * *

I queried a Cabinet member about the prospect of GMA running, and he said that whenever anyone in the Cabinet raises this query with her, GMA "gets upset," insisting she prefers to concentrate on her programs. He also noted that while the President's children do not want her to run, many people, especially local officials, indeed are now urging her to run, and she is "starting to listen." In fact, some pundits read the recruiting of Hernani Braganza as a second political adviser as one sure clue that GMA will run.

The guessing game appears to be encouraged by her supporters to prevent GMA from becoming a lame-duck President. With her rising satisfaction rating and the persistent inclusion of her name in surveys of "candidates" for 2004 despite her avowal of further ambition—she came out fourth despite being a "non-candidate—the lame-duck issue may not be much of a problem.

* * *

The SWS survey of candidate preferences showed Noli de Castro on top, closely followed by Raul Roco, FPJ, "non-candidate" GMA and Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Pollster Mahar Mangahas made the interesting comment that Roco is the second strong choice of those who would otherwise vote for GMA. What it means is that both GMA and Roco draw from the same source of votes and that if GMA will not run, her votes would go to Roco and not De Castro, enabling Roco to catch up and even overtake De Castro.

Mangahas' assertion is interesting in the light of current efforts of some ranking Lakas leaders to broker a team-up of GMA and Roco, as they feel that if these two leaders fight each other, they would merely divide their own votes. A GMA-Roco tandem indeed would be quite formidable and perhaps even unbeatable. A GMA-De Castro teamup is also being eyed by Lakas strategists, but the problem is that many people cannot sleep nights with this combination.

* * *

But the question is, would Roco agree to run with GMA, instead of just seeking her anointment? A report recently said that Roco will run even without the support of the People Power Coalition of which his tiny Aksyon Demokratiko is a member. One can hardly blame him since he has consistently managed to land on top of the pile even without an issue. But pundits have questioned how far Roco's popularity will go without machinery or logistics. Or will he eventually team up with GMA, as she herself suddenly did in 1998 with Lakas presidential candidate Jose de Venecia, or Joseph Estrada with Nationalist People's Coalition presidential candidate Eduardo Cojuangco in 1992?

Destruction of Heritage Site ongoing

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

LAST year, I wrote about a Cagayan de Oro heritage site that was then imperiled to kingdom come by the city government of Mayor Vicente Emano. The Huluga Complex is, or was, composed of several limestone caves where a 1970s team of researchers from the National Museum had unearthed prehistoric Philippine pottery and skeletal remains which, in 1977 the University of California in San Diego confirmed as dating to 377 A.D. Part of the complex was the so-called Huluga Open Site that to this day continues to yield several remnants of artifacts as well as an amazing midden of obsidian glass flakes. Obsidian glass is an extrusion from an erupting volcano. The glass forms when extruded magma cools very quickly. Endowed with a cutting sharpness, obsidian was used in the Stone Age as a cutting tool. Where obsidian is found to this day in areas non-endemic to it often suggests that it was an object of exchange as a trading material. In Europe, studies have shown that obsidian presence around the Mediterranean indicated a cyclic flow of material exchange between ancient peoples.

Last year a group of Cagayan de Oro citizens banded together to save the endangered complex. The Heritage Conservation Advocates later convened several forums where dialogues were conducted with Cagayan de Oro City Hall departments which had direct concerns with what was then a proposed bridge and arterial roads spanning the Cagayan River, designed to ease the urban traffic congestion of a fast sprawling but ineptly managed city. It was a laudable project, and the conservationists agreed wholeheartedly. That is, except for the fact that, as always and everywhere, the government initiates projects at the expense of historical landmarks much akin to the fate of Manila's Mehan Garden. The recommendation was simple: divert the project and protect the site. To use an overused phrase—a win-win solution.

It was heritage advocacy that unearthed the anomaly that groundbreaking by a previous contractor begun even without an Environmental Compliance Certificate. Several dialogues later, the City Engineer of Cagayan de Oro finally stepped in by conducting a site visit and, armed with a new map, gave assurances that the project will be diverted. Likewise, the Environmental Management Bureau intervened by recommending to Emano the project's diversion. Having thus reached its goal, the conservationists rested. Case closed.

Last Jan. 6, in fact, INQUIRER heritage conservation writer Augusto F. Villalon wrote in his article that Cagayan de Oro City government representatives had reported to his group, the Manila-based Heritage Conservation Society, that the site will be spared and that a "buffer zone" had been created to protect the site. However, a later inquiry with HCS lawyer Trixie Cruz Angeles, revealed that the HCS never had a personal communication with Dr. Erlinda Burton of the Xavier University, the archeologist who did some of the Huluga excavation works.

Despite assurances from his alter egos, Emano proceeded to defy the EMB and to destroy the site. Now, Villalon and the HCS will have to take back their words and come post-haste to Cagayan de Oro to see for themselves what is no longer there. The Huluga Open Site is no more. The caves are still there—beside a mammoth bridge that will receive a daily flow of heavy traffic, on top of the fact that no preservation and protection measures have been put in place by Emano. The so-called "buffer zone" was simply a prevarication of Emano's alter egos and armchair historians.

Emano continues to feign Huluga's significance. "The bridge is more important than the heritage site," he went on radio. "Why only now?" he asks, forgetting that opposition started since 1999. But Emano has several questions to answer. Was an Archeological Impact Assessment conducted? Then show us the papers. How was it done without input inclusions from conservationists, some of whom are academically trained anthropologists and archeologists? If not, how was an Environmental Clearance Certificate produced? And if an ECC was truly obtained, how was it possible for the DENR to ignore the official pronouncement of the National Museum which had written Emano to say that the Huluga Complex was an important heritage site that needed to be preserved?

In the meantime, a study of scholarly probity was done at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Lee Anthony Neri, defending his graduate study on "Obsidian Sourcing at Huluga Open Site," subjected obsidian samples to a series of tests using X-Ray Flourescence Spectroscopy (XRF) and Proton Induced X-Ray Emission/Proton Induced Gamma Ray Emission (PIXE/PIGME). Comparing it to known obsidian sources in Luzon, the Pacific, and other neighboring areas, the Huluga obsidian did not fit any of these known sources. After geochemical sourcing of different Mindanao volcanoes, it was found that the elemental sources of Huluga obsidian were not the same. Since the Visayas area has an absence of obsidian source, Neri finally came to the probability that "the Huluga obsidian materials were acquired through external exchange." "There is a strong possibility that a direct exchange took place between a source community outside the islands of the Philippines with the people living in Huluga."

In a recent caper with political adventurism involving a returning OFW suspected of SARS and then denied entry by Emano to Cagayan de Oro on the strength of a local ordinance that runs counter to the presidential directive, Emano boasted that "local laws are superior to national laws." What is it among many of our local executives that make them run local governments in the way of baronetcies and potentates? And so, it is the turn of Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, after her record as Mehan Garden advocate during her pre-Cabinet days, to test her mettle in this troubling issue.

Unfortunately, prehistoric people cannot vote.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Panganiban's monotheistic Philippine Republic

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

"THE PHILIPPINES is theist, not atheist, not even agnostic. In fact, it is monotheist; it worships one God. That is why the Constitution begins with this significant first phrase: We the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Almighty God x x x... The most basic concept of separation of church and state merely requires the government to be neutral in the competition amongst different religious denominations."

One might ask, which one God is it that the Constitution worships? Wrathful Yahweh? The Holy Trinity with co-Redemptrix? Allah? Kabunian? Gaia? Buddha? Shiva? Mammon? Satan? All or none?

Don't laugh. The Constitution establishes monotheistic worship right in its Preamble, claims Supreme Court Justice Artemio V. Panganiban in a well-applauded speech breathlessly bragging about his role in Edsa II at the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary on Feb. 19, 2002. It is ironically entitled: "Saving the Constitutional System"—and is Chapter 11 of his revealing book, "Reforming the Judiciary" (SC Printing Press, December 2002, Padre Faura, Manila—now for contemplation by the global mind at my personal website: www.deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com).

Justice Panganiban opens by reciting the so-called "Centennial Prayer for the Courts." Then he explains why he and Chief Justice Hilario Davide established that official prayer in 2001. He argues it is not a violation of separation of church and state because it is ecumenical: "Its wordings were finalized after patient and repeated consultations with major religious groups in the country: Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Born-again and others." (But look at some old Christian Family Movement prayer books ca 1960.)

This is a culpable violation of the Constitution's guarantee of religious liberty in the Bill of Rights (also in the US First Amendment with its long judicial history)—"Section 5. No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights."

The following is fundamental. "Thereof" refers to "religion." The Constitution bans the government from ever doing by law anything that "establishes religion" or "prohibits religion." Anything deemed to be an unconstitutional "prohibition of religion" by the government should it ever ban some religious exercise, is necessarily an unconstitutional "establishment of religion" by the government should it ever promote the same religious exercise. For example, it would be unconstitutional to prohibit Bible-reading in a Court of law. But it is also an "establishment of religion" to mandate Bible-reading in a Court of Law. Or an ecumenical prayer! This is the meaning of the First Amendment enshrined in 200 years of adjudicating "separation of church and state."

The establishment of an official prayer by Davide's fiat, was done "after patient and repeated consultations with major religious groups." About what? Religion—what else? This promotes religion—not a grandiose and improbable state religion—just good old fashioned ecumenical, but unconstitutional, religion. In the Preamble, the Filipino people implore the aid of Almighty God—but not the self-proclaimed infallible holy men of organized religions. Not "major religious groups." Implore Almighty God. Not homo sapiens in skirts and collars.

Theological discussion precedes Panganiban's narration of Edsa II. Why? He is seized by hubris that he thought of the idea GMA must seize the presidency on Jan. 20, 2001 by being sworn right in. He throws in the Holy Spirit. He crows about it to the seminarians, making *tsismis* about Davide, GMA and Jaime Cardinal Sin, and writes it in a book for posterity. (Doronila-envy?)

But what the Supreme Court did at Edsa II was a huge mistake and we may all suffer mightily for it in the days to come. What was done cannot be swept under the rug. For the coals of perilous discord are burning there already and infinite forces will move on immovable objects. To say it is just "legal lunacy" or "delay" for Alan Paguia to bring up the point of constitutional order that he convincingly has about Estrada v. Arroyo (2001), would miss the emerging point of history—a warning that it's bigger than Erap and Gloria.

Panganiban's conceptions are a repugnant mockery of the spirit and principle of religious freedom under liberal democracy. Merely requires neutrality! Not strictly? No wonder the Catholic Church, inheritor of four centuries of simoniacal theocracy under the Spanish Taliban, merely dominates the competition, merely holds its daily Holy Masses right in the bulwarks of the Constitution, merely fills government offices with its idolatrous symbols of virgins and boy-gods and magical pictures of dead white men. And merely replaces Presidents.

I abjure Panganiban's conceptions as judicial Talibanism. I decry the bloody claws by which we've always known the lion. Religious freedom is not optional to democracy, but quintessential. Democracy will never unite "Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao" in that hoped-for polity of peace and prosperity if the bulls of the high court proclaim a single god with horns, and act like his judges in an animal farm.

Debt collection through newspapers

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

GIVE it to the collection agencies to come up with various techniques in running after unpaid debts. The tactics range from sending letters threatening court action to telephone calls at odd hours of the day to maligning the debtor with his friends or officemates.

The modern-day Shylocks have devised another strategy to exact their pound of flesh from people who fail to comply with their credit obligations. This time, the "shame the debtor into paying" approach involves the newspapers.

Last week, a visibly irate reader called up the INQUIRER to ask why it has allowed its name to be used in the collection efforts of a certain lawyer. Initially, I thought the complaint was about a letter of demand that the newspaper's lawyers may have sent to one of its debtors. I told myself the reader had no right to complain if he owes something to the INQUIRER. I was wrong.

It turned out that a lawyer, who holds office in Quezon City, sent the reader a letter that made the latter's blood pressure shoot up. The unedited letter reads: "We represent our client, x x x, who has engaged our legal services for us to do EVERYTHING legally possible to 'punish' delinquent cardholders. Despite our notice to you of our DECISION TO FILE THE NECESSARY CIVIL CASE AGAINST YOU to collect the amount of x x x you opted to ignore the same.

"As a last ditch effort to reach out to you before a long drawn legal battle, we have finally decided to first PUBLISH YOUR NAME and the corresponding complaint against you in THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, THE MANILA BULLETIN and THE PHILIPPINE STAR on JULY 06, 2003.

"To spare you from the resulting inconvenience, please contact immediately x x x at the following telephone numbers x x x."

Harsh words

Although the complaint had nothing to do with the handling of news and photos, I felt it touched on the newspaper's credibility and standing before the public and therefore worth looking into.

The lawyer's letter looked genuine. But I entertained some doubts about its authenticity. I felt no lawyer worth his salt would send a "blackmail" letter of that sort and, worse, name drop three national broadsheets.

To settle my uncertainty, I decided to call up the telephone numbers mentioned in the letter and pretended that I was the absconding cardholder. Using the explanation earlier made by the reader, I questioned the accuracy of the alleged unpaid credit card obligations and argued that it was unfair to slap penalties and surcharges on disputed billings.

I was taken aback by the sharp response of the lawyer's representative to my statements. She let loose a barrage of invectives and four-letter words that would have made the most jaded streetwalker squirm with embarrassment. I could imagine her talking with bloodshot eyes and her mouth frothing. like that of a hyena looking at a fallen prey.

With the way she screamed and ranted, I got the feeling she had trained for that role for months and played it out with gusto on her hapless victims. To save myself from further aggravation, I quickly hung up when the decibel of her voice became intolerable.

The experience validated what I have been reading about the strong-arm tactics that some collection agencies are using at present. The intimidation, harassment and shaming techniques may be likened to the third degree methods that police scalawags employ to get suspects to confess to the crimes being imputed to them. Times must be really hard for some lawyers that they have to stoop that low to earn their fees.

Intimidation

I checked with the INQUIRER's advertisement staff to find out if the lawyer complained about had booked an ad for the July 6 issue for the purpose she told the reader. She had not. Neither did the records show that she had paid for the publication of an ad of that nature in the past.

It is apparent her reference to a July 6 ad at the INQUIRER was just a bluff. Whether or not she has made reservations in the two other broadsheets, as she claimed in her letter, is a big question mark. Considering that the cost of putting up those ads is much more than the unsatisfied debt, it is doubtful if the lawyer is serious about going one step further in her "shame" campaign against the allegedly defaulting reader.

But this should not be taken to mean that refusal to pay one's lawful credit obligations should be condoned. Far from it. A debt incurred through the plastic instrument is a debt that should be paid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the credit card agreement.

If the cardholder is unable to pay his bills for one reason or another, he has to make the appropriate arrangements with the credit card company for softer terms of payment. Changing addresses to avoid the bill collectors will only aggravate the situation.

Unauthorized

However, collection agencies do not have the license to do anything to compel defaulting cardholders to pay up. There are certain norms of conduct and legal procedures that must be observed in enforcing the terms of the credit card agreement.

The strong-arm tactics that some collection agencies have been using to meet their collection quota are reprehensible. They should not be tolerated. The lawyers who consider those methods part of the trade are doing the legal profession a big disservice.

So to the cardholders who have received letters from collection agencies along the lines complained about by the reader, please be advised that they are unauthorized. The newspaper has not allowed any credit company or collection agency to use its name in the collection of unpaid credit obligations.

What's next in the bag of tricks of collection agencies?

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets. Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or reader sadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Party-list law needs amendments

IT is with much anticipation that we await the assumption of seven new lawmakers into the party-list fold. We have argued since the beginning that the essence of the party-list law is to democratize and widen representation in Congress by allowing underrepresented sectors and groups to participate in governance and decision-making.

The delay in the Supreme Court ruling can be traced to the Comelec's gross misunderstanding of the party-list law when it allowed all groups to run under the elections, even those which represent big business, real estate developers, traditional parties and even government-funded "anti-drug" groups.

As a result, legitimate organizations with legitimate interests were effectively disenfranchised. We lament the loss of opportunities and the amount of good that other party-list groups could have done in Congress had this issue been resolved earlier.

The evidentiary hearings that followed to determine which of the groups that ran in the 2001 elections are indeed eligible, show that the seven groups which are now eligible to take their seats in Congress are indeed representatives of the marginalized and the disenfranchised, in accordance with the Supreme Court's 8-point guideline.

In 2004 and beyond, only groups that truly represent the disempowered and the disadvantaged will be able to contend for seats in Congress. We in Akbayan are also hopeful that the entry of the new legislators will be a big boost in our ongoing efforts to amend and improve the current law on party-list representation, foremost of which would be the pending amendments on the three-seat ceiling and the formula employed in determining the threshold set for gaining entry into the legislature.

We look forward to working with the representatives from Anak-Mindanao (AMIN), Partido ng Manggagawa, Sanlakas, Cocofed, Buhay, Abanse Pinay and ABA in the Party-List Caucus which includes Akbayan, Cibac, Apec and Butil. We believe that with this development, the Party-List Caucus will be able to prove that its members are serious in the struggle for principled change and meaningful reforms in the government.

—LORETTA ANN P. ROSALES and
MARIO JOYO AGUJA,
representatives,
Akbayan Party List

Landmark law for consumer protection

THE TOBACCO Regulation Act (RA 9211) signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo early last week, is a landmark legislation which puts the Philippines much ahead of other countries in the world in curbing the smoking habit which is injurious to health.

We salute the initiative and undaunted determination of Sen. Juan Flavier, whose voice on this measure on the Senate floor at first, seemed lost in the wilderness when he introduced this comprehensive tobacco regulation act.

The law which imposes an absolute ban on smoking in public places and restricts the packaging, use, sale, distribution and advertisement of cigarettes in other places, must be a great drain to the interest of cigarette manufacturers, the tobacco growers in Northern Luzon and other directly affected down the line. These sectors thrived on the tobacco products of their farms for many generations since the Spanish colonial era.

As we ponder the merits and great advantages accruing to the consumers from the passage of this Tobacco Regulation Act, we must also take cognizance of the role of an ardent but incredible corporate proponent, Philip Morris, which aggressively proposed as early as last year a ban on youth smoking, the biggest market segment of the tobacco industry.

In this regard, we toast the corporate responsibility exhibited by the Philip Morris organization and its decisive gesture for many years now to downscale its advertising activities and budgets which responds to the universal clamor for a total permanent moratorium on cigarette smoking, as it is scientifically proven to be hazardous and definitely injurious to the human health.

In the end, the signing into law of the Tobacco Regulation Act is a clear demonstration that the Filipino spirit, properly inspired, can rise to the challenge of national welfare, and boldly shed off political and business interests for the consumers' good.

Indeed, this is proof enough that there is hope in our country's future if our national leaders in government and business, as well as those in media, will focus their creative God-given energies, talents and resources for the welfare of all.

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR.,
president,
Coalition for Consumer
Protection and Welfare,
vdelfierro@hotmail.com

How achievers should be judged

MAURO Malang Santos is correct in criticizing the selection process of the National Artist Award. Who are the members of this selection committee? Name them and you will know immediately that they are guided by the barnacled values of *pakikisama, kaibigan, kamag-anak* which obstruct the recognition of genuine excellence.

Furthermore, the individuals who head the institutions of government tasked with giving the awards, do not deserve their positions—they are not cultural leaders themselves in spite of their competence and integrity. They were dropped from the sky by executive fiat—they do not enter these positions through the front door by virtue of their reputation as cultural workers.

The National Artist Award is a presidential award—pure and simple. It was set up by Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos to deodorize their fascist regime. The President has every right to veto any of the recommendees and select her own awardee—even her hairdresser if she is deserving.

The insinuation that Anding Roces does not deserve the award is an insult to the man and to all of us who know him.

Anding has written short stories, a seminal book on the fiesta. His column which defines our history and culture has been running for more than 30 years. That, in itself is a terrific cultural achievement. But more than this, the man is a patriot.

Literature is the noblest of the arts and it stands to reason that writers should be of noble bearing. Do all National Artist awardees have this nobility? Some collaborated with Marcos—Anding fought the dictator. And the Japanese as well.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award (and its selection process) is more prestigious; for one, the awardee is selected from the entire Asian region and not from the Philippines alone.

The National Artist Award should be like the Magsaysay Award: it should recognize not only a man's work but also the way he lives, affirming his comment to Filipinas and the Socratic precept of virtue and excellence as a measure by which all achievers should be judged.

How may National Artist awardees be selected:

The Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Award selection process may well be followed. No posthumous award should be given. Cultural artists themselves may be the first to recommend candidates. Cultural organizations, heads of educational institutions with cultural departments, select individuals, particularly critics, may also make recommendations. A clearing committee appointed by the President, will then finalize a listing of six in each category. The President then makes the choice from this listing or add any name he/she likes.

In applying the Socractic precept to Anding Roces. President Macapagal-Arroyo elevates the National Artist Award several notches higher. Since the government has chosen to continue this Marcos creation, it should now follow a truly meaningful selection process. In this way, the National Artist Award is finally lifted from its dubious origin.

—F. SIONIL JOSE,
1980 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee,
2001 National Artist Awardee

A noble lesson

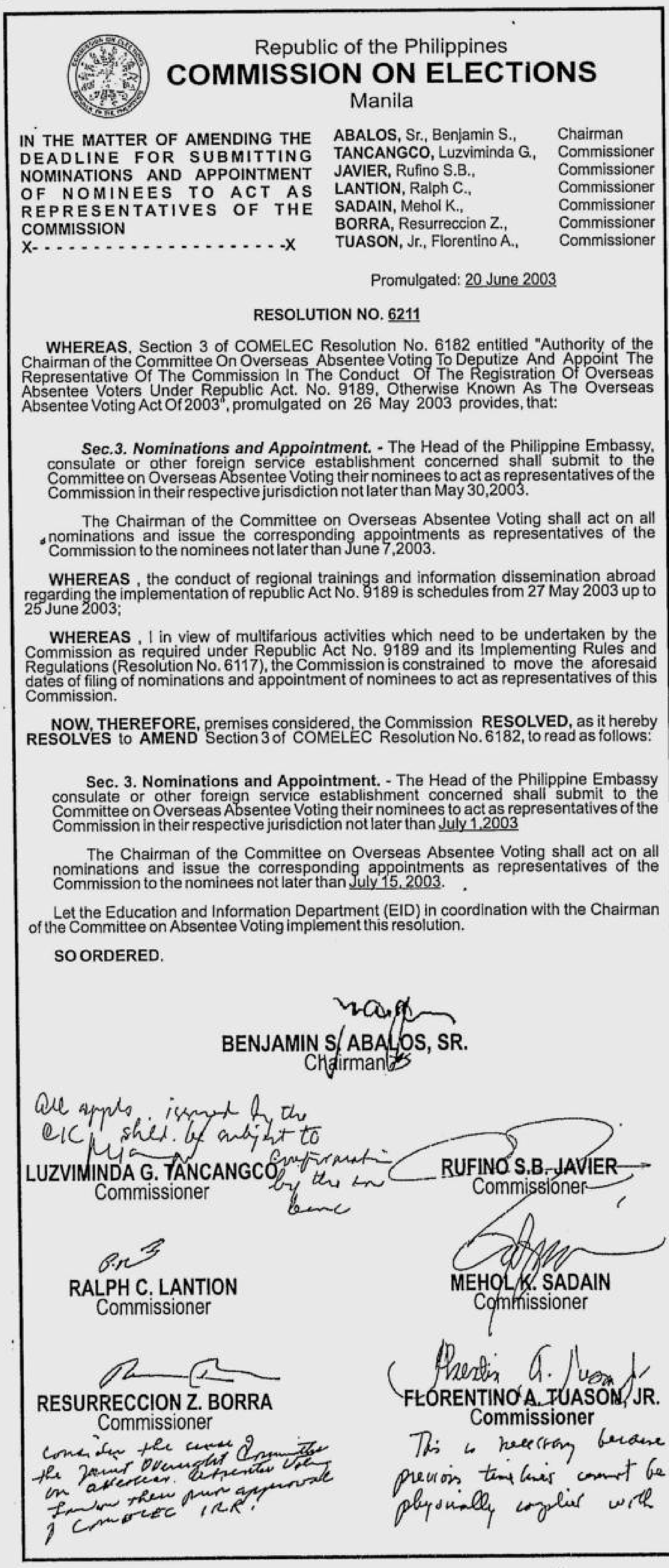
SEN. Rene Cayetano is dead. *Sic transit gloria mundi!* The nobler lesson, however, that should console the grieving among us is in the filial sacrifice that his youngest son made to prolong the senator's life.

The Cayetano family must have known the risks—the uncertainty—of liver transplant. It was quite courageous of the son to choose to donate a part of his liver so his father could live a little longer.

There are other smaller, less noticed acts of heroism among us that should prove we are not hopeless after all.

The senator is dead. Long live his progeny.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ,
420 Gov. A. Pascual St.,
Navotas, Metro Manila



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENT OF NOMINEES TO ACT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION	**ABALOS,** Sr., Benjamin S.,	Chairman
	TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.,	Commissioner
	JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
	LANTION, Ralph C.,	Commissioner
	SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
	BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
X- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -X	**TUASON,** Jr., Florentino A.,	Commissioner

Promulgated: 20 June 2003

RESOLUTION NO. 6211

WHEREAS, Section 3 of COMELEC Resolution No. 6182 entitled "Authority of the Chairman of the Committee On Overseas Absentee Voting To Deputize And Appoint The Representative Of The Commission In The Conduct Of The Registration Of Overseas Absentee Voters Under Republic Act. No. 9189, Otherwise Known As The Overseas Absentee Voting Act Of 2003", promulgated on 26 May 2003 provides, that:

> ***Sec.3. Nominations and Appointment.*** - The Head of the Philippine Embassy, consulate or other foreign service establishment concerned shall submit to the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting their nominees to act as representatives of the Commission in their respective jurisdiction not later than May 30,2003.
>
> The Chairman of the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting shall act on all nominations and issue the corresponding appointments as representatives of the Commission to the nominees not later than June 7,2003.

WHEREAS , the conduct of regional trainings and information dissemination abroad regarding the implementation of republic Act No. 9189 is schedules from 27 May 2003 up to 25 June 2003;

WHEREAS , I in view of multifarious activities which need to be undertaken by the Commission as required under Republic Act No. 9189 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (Resolution No. 6117), the Commission is constrained to move the aforesaid dates of filing of nominations and appointment of nominees to act as representatives of this Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, premises considered, the Commission **RESOLVED,** as it hereby **RESOLVES** to **AMEND** Section 3 of COMELEC Resolution No. 6182, to read as follows:

> **Sec. 3. Nominations and Appointment.** - The Head of the Philippine Embassy consulate or other foreign service establishment concerned shall submit to the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting their nominees to act as representatives of the Commission in their respective jurisdiction not later than July 1,2003
>
> The Chairman of the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting shall act on all nominations and issue the corresponding appointments as representatives of the Commission to the nominees not later than July 15, 2003.

Let the Education and Information Department (EID) in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Absentee Voting implement this resolution.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

All appts. issued by the CIC shld. be subject to [illegible] confirmation by the en banc

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

consider the [illegible] Committee the Joint Oversight Committee on Absentee Voting [illegible] their prior approval of COMELEC IRR!

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

This is necessary because previous timelines cannot be physically complied with

An accounting and resignations from Meralco urged

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition urgently calls on the Lopez management to make a complete accounting of their past actions to its stockholders.

Further, the FDC demands the resignation of the Lopez management, so that stockholders can pave the way for the democratization of Meralco's ownership and management through consumer representation.

Under the Lopez management, Meralco has incurred heavy obligations to both domestic and international banks. It has passed on its P30.3-billion income tax expenses to consumers since 1994. Meralco frantically negotiates with creditors to defer payment of its P6-billion short-term obligations maturing within the year; it shamelessly colludes with the Energy Regulatory Commission to defer its refund to consumers. This is the mess that the Lopez management brought to Meralco.

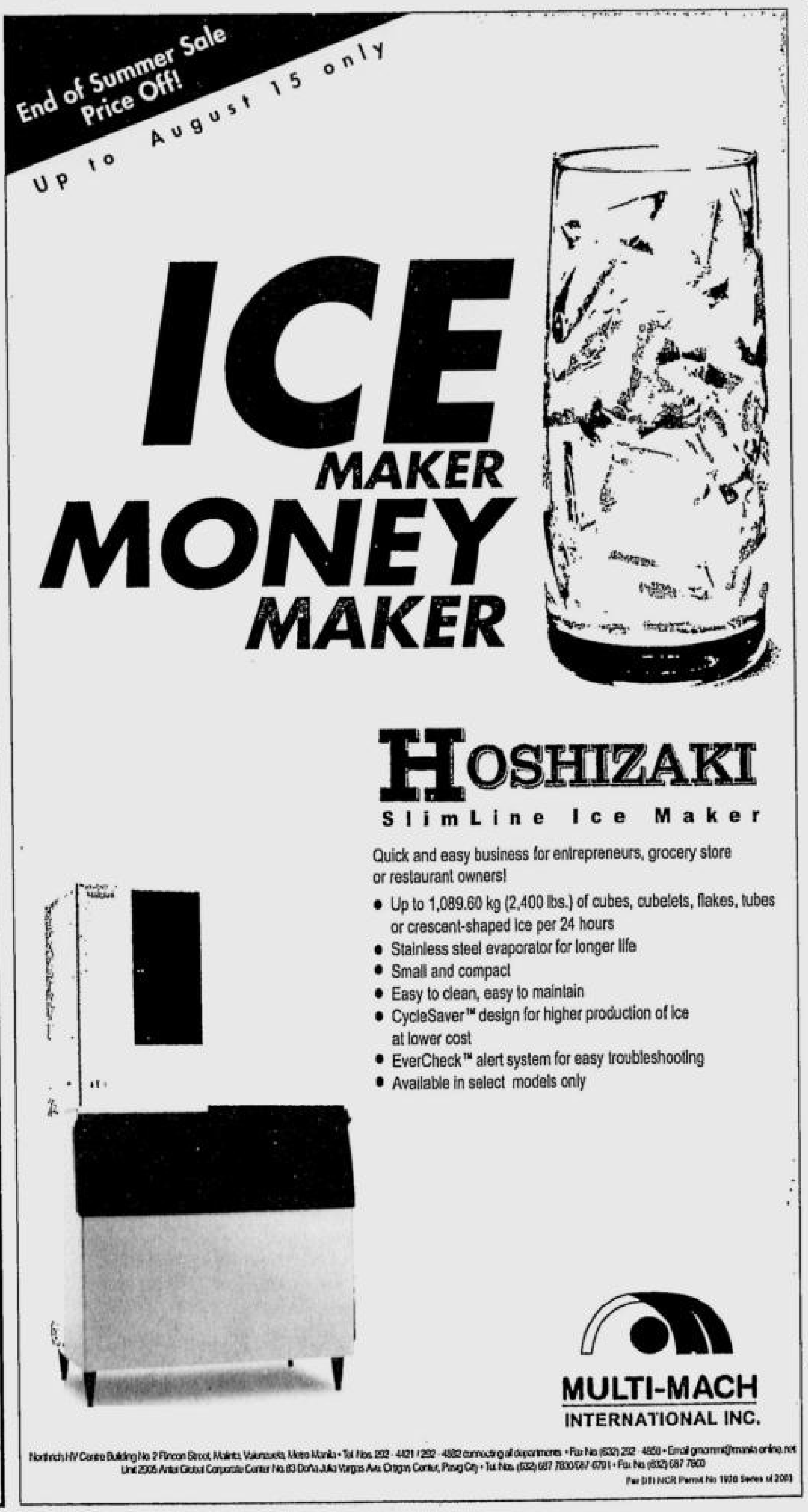
Market failure and the 1997 financial contagion cannot be solely blamed for Meralco's predicament. Occupying a captive market equivalent to 48 percent of the country's total GDP, Meralco was a viable venture. But in making questionable management decisions and unsustainable acquisitions, Meralco incurred losses. This proves that the present management lacks competence and visionary zeal to make Meralco viable and sustainable.

Meralco is a public utility imbued with public interest: it should not be treated as a mere business enterprise. But the Lopezes turned Meralco into a simple business venture by putting profit before public service. The result: heavy losses for Meralco and a consumer base reeling under oppressive electricity rates.

With the Lopezes remaining at the helm, Meralco and its consumers will always be at the receiving end of their bad management style. Thus, stockholders should vote out the present management and install a new one that is competent, accountable, honest and faithful to serving the public interest.

Further, there should be consumer representation through refund in shares of ownership. In the interest of the public, we urge the Meralco stockholders to allow the refund's conversion into shares, give consumer representation to the policymaking bodies—meetings of stockholders and of the Board of Directors—to ensure transparency and protection for both shareholders and consumers.

—WILSON FORTALEZA,
vice president,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
34 Matiaga St.,
Central District,
Quezon City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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Guec**

N. Norea ready to test nuke by end of year, says analyst

TOKYO—North Korea has enough plutonium to make six to 10 nuclear weapons and could test such a weapon by the end of the year, a former US negotiator with the Stalinist state said in an interview published Sunday.

"To the best of my knowledge, based on very well-informed Washington sources, North Korea's nuclear program is moving ahead very quickly," Kenneth Quinones was quoted as saying by the Daily Yomiuri.

"Basically, this means North Korea's reprocessing (of plutonium from spent nuclear fuel) is almost finished, or has finished. This means North Korea now has enough plutonium to make six to 10 nuclear weapons," he said.

"If North Korea wants to use their nuclear weapon as negotiating leverage, they must test it," said Quinones, who is now the Korean affairs director at the Washington-based private think-tank, International Center.

"The more I talked to my friends, the more I realized that it is possible for North Korea to have a nuclear weapon by December. It is possible they'll have a test by December. There is nothing to stop North Korea from doing this."

He said it took about six months to reprocess plutonium from spent nuclear fuel and then about six months to make a nuclear bomb, according to the daily.

As a US state department official, Quinones was involved in US talks with North Korea that led to a 1994 agreement that froze its nuclear program in exchange for light-water reactors for power generation and heavy fuel aid.

Pyongyang has however declared the agreement void amid a dispute with Washington about its nuclear ambitions.

The dispute arose last October when the United States said North Korea had admitted running a nuclear weapons program based on highly enriched uranium. Washington then cut off fuel aid to the energy-starved regime.

North Korea later unsealed 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods from an old graphite-moderate reactor, which produces weapons-grade plutonium as a by-product.

On June 9 communist North Korea declared publicly for the first time in an official media dispatch that it was seeking nuclear weapons.

Quinones, who visited North Korea 13 times from 1992 to 1997, said that while North Korea was believed to have the technology and material to produce nuclear weapons from plutonium, the country would possibly only be able to obtain enough highly enriched uranium to make a nuclear weapon in two to three years.

He added though that North Korea did not have "sophisticated" technology to produce nuclear warheads to be carried by its ballistic missiles. *AFP*

Wife kills husband after political spat

PHNOM PENH—A member of the royalist Funcinpec party knifed her husband from the rival Cambodian People's Party (CPP) to death after a political row, a report said Sunday.

The Rasmei Kampuchea said the argument erupted after Ly Touch, 23, told his wife Touch Rin, also 23, that she could not attend last Thursday's election campaign launch for Funcinpec and instead had to stay home and mind the kids.

Ly Touch then left the family home in the northern province of Kratie to campaign for the ruling CPP in the July 27 national polls.

The paper said after the husband's return, "the wife stabbed him to death instantly."

"The killing was caused by a dispute between the husband and wife. The woman named Touch Rin has been arrested by authorities and sent to court," Cambodia's Central Office of Security said.

The office has been tasked by the government to investigate electoral-related violence in the polls to be contested mainly by Prime Minister Hun Sen's CPP, Funcinpec and the opposition Sam Rainsy Party (SRP).

Human rights advocates claim between 11 and 18 members of the three parties have been killed since January, however, authorities say the slayings were not politically motivated but due to personal disputes and robberies. *AFP*

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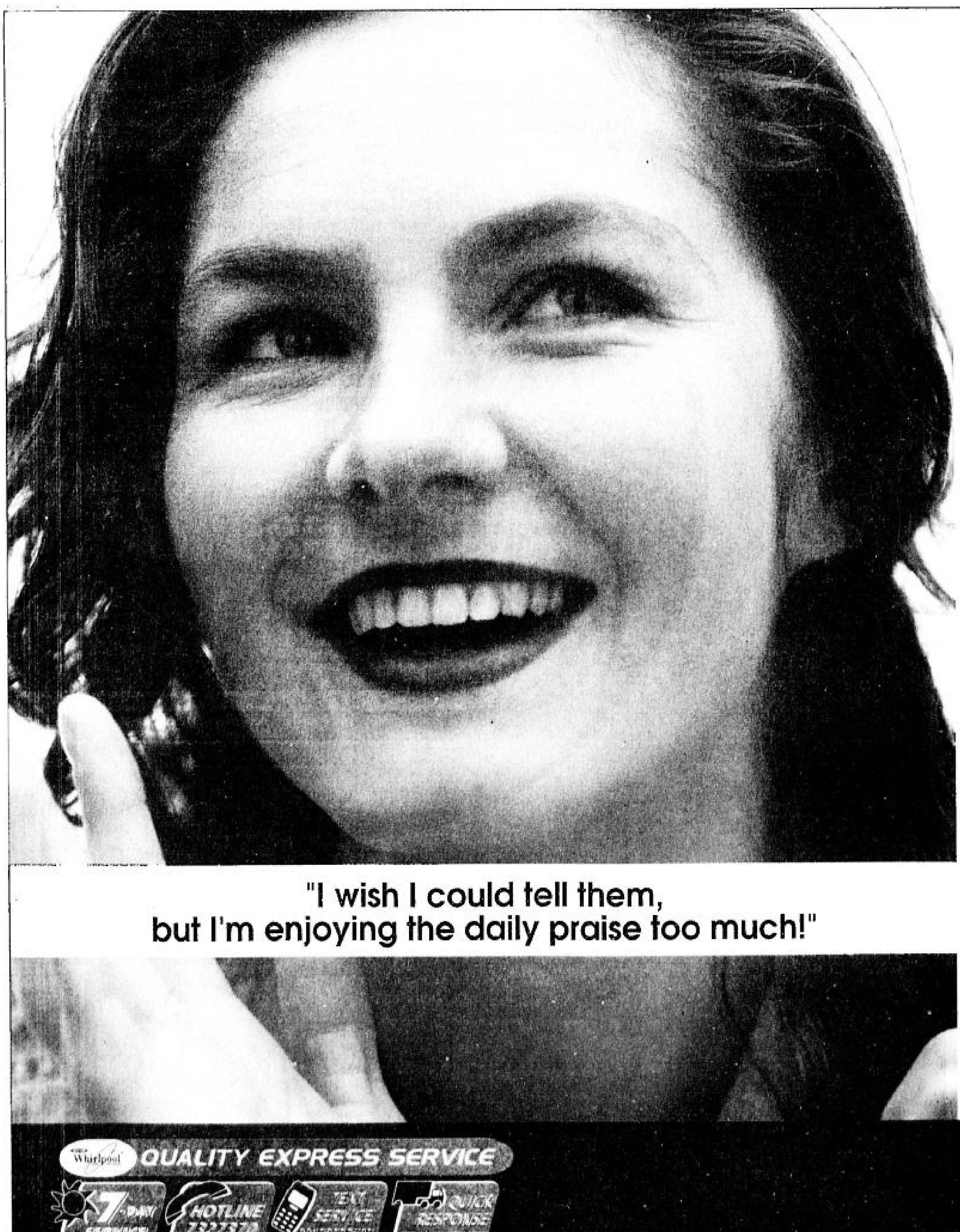
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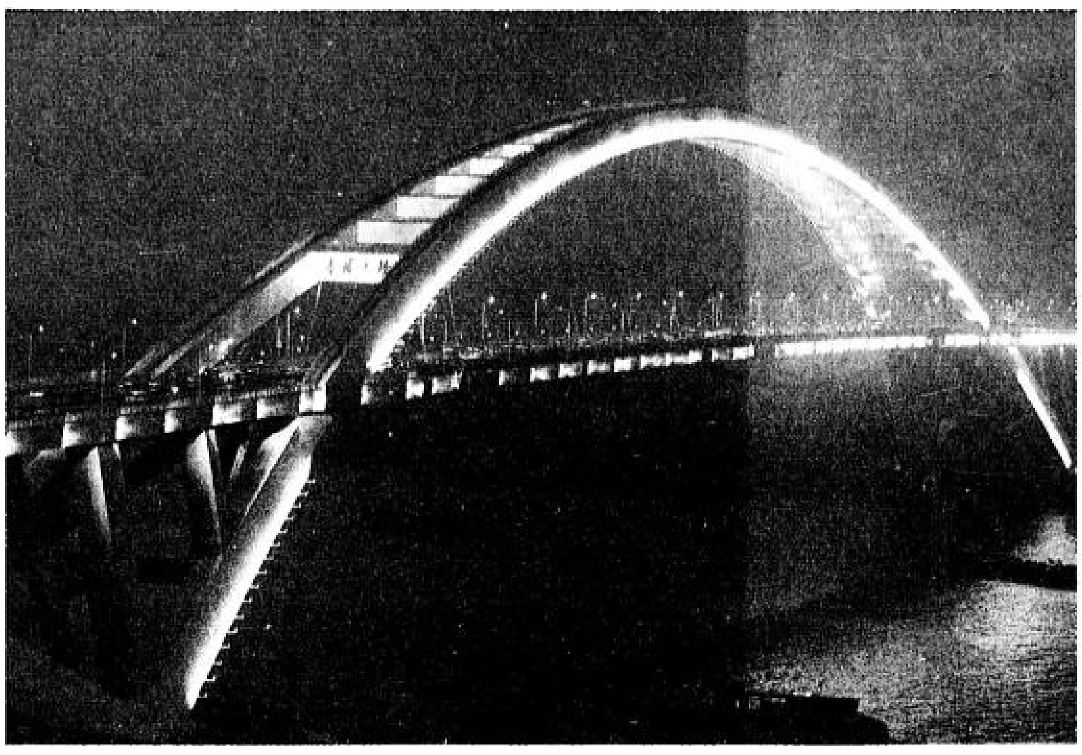

LONGEST STEEL-ARCH BRIDGE REUTERS

China opens what it says is the world's longest steel-arch bridge at a ceremony in the commercial capital Shanghai on Saturday. The bridge whose 550-meter arch is longer than the previous record holder, the 518-meter-long New River Gorge Bridge in the US state of West Virginia. The $302-million, 3.9-km Lupu Bridge was inaugurated by Chinese basketball star Yao Ming, who led about 1,000 people in a fun run across the structure.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad declare truce with Israel

GAZA—Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad declared a three-month ceasefire with Israel on Sunday, a move which Israel immediately dismissed.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Gideon Meir said the militants' plan was simply to regroup.

"I will repeat what Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said two hours ago to US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice—this ceasefire is a ticking bomb because it actually maintains the infrastructure of terror," Meir told Reuters.

A statement from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which have led a 33-month-old revolt against occupation, said they had "suspended military operations against the Zionist enemy" and would stick to the deal if Israel fulfilled a number of conditions.

"(These include) the total cessation of all forms of Zionist aggression against our people, of incursions, demolitions, closures, sieges on cities, villages and refugee camps, including the siege imposed on (Palestinian) President Yasser Arafat, the bulldozing of agricultural land, attacks on land and property ... the total cessation of all assassination operations, massacres and of all arrest and deportation campaigns against our people, their leaders and their fighters."

Israeli withdrawal

The ceasefire followed word from Israel that it would start withdrawing forces from occupied Gaza territory on Monday, in return for Palestinian police assuming security control and preventing attacks on Israelis.

A joint truce declaration by all five militant factions was postponed earlier because of wrangling over wording. It was not clear if the other armed groups would follow the Islamists' lead.

Fatah, however, will announce a truce separately later Sunday, an official from Arafat's party said, following the announcement by Hamas and Islamic Jihad of a three-month suspension of attacks against Israel.

"Fatah will announce a truce tonight in conjunction with several factions of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization)," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Syrian support

Syria, which hosts a number of anti-Israeli groups, offered its tacit backing on Sunday to plans by the Palestinian militant factions to declare a three-month halt to attacks against the Jewish state.

"Syria supports any true peace and blesses any agreement among the Palestinians which bolsters their unity," Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara said at a press conference here alongside his Irish counterpart Brian Cowen.

"The Palestinian national dialogue is important because it is the pillar of Palestinian national unity," Shara said.

But he added the factions, including the Syrian-backed Muslim fundamentalist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, "must have enough time for dialogue."

Last-minute bickering had delayed the anticipated announcement of a truce Sunday by all Palestinian factions, but Hamas and Islamic Jihad still went ahead with a joint declaration of their own ceasefire agreement.

The truce initiative coincides with Palestinian premier Mahmud Abbas' efforts to revive peace negotiations with Israel under the aegis of the "roadmap."

Although Hamas and Islamic Jihad committed themselves to Abbas' program, the left-wing Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), also with leadership based in Damascus, has denounced the idea of laying down arms.

Syria, the standard-bearer of Arab nationalism, has played a cat-and-mouse game with Washington over its backing for anti-Israeli groups since the springtime war on Iraq set up a US occupation next door.

Amid rumors Syria was the next target on Washington's hit list, an early May visit by US Secretary of State Colin Powell to Damascus resulted in the shutting down of radical Palestinian groups offices in the Syrian capital.

However, Powell, on a visit to Jerusalem June 20, complained that since his visit to Damascus, Syrian efforts to crackdown on Palestinian militants were "totally inadequate." *Reuters/AFP*

Taiwan vote worries China, US

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan's leaders are making their biggest enemy, China, and their best friend, the United States, nervous at the same time by pushing for their first islandwide referendum.

The vote would be about whether to finish building a nuclear plant—an issue that doesn't directly involve America or China. But both are worried the election would lead to something dangerous: a vote on Taiwanese independence.

However, the island's leadership and some analysts insist that the fears are unfounded. They say Taiwan wouldn't dare hold an independence vote—an election that would bring huge risks and little benefit or significant change.

Beijing has long warned that an independence referendum could trigger a devastating war across the 160-km-wide Taiwan Strait, which separates the rivals who split amid civil war five decades ago.

China's Communist Party leaders have never ruled the leaf-shaped island, but they insist that democratic Taiwan belongs to the mainland. All great Chinese dynasties must unify the motherland, so taking over Taiwan has been a sacred mission for the Communists.

This week, China called the nuclear referendum a rehearsal for those plotting to eventually hold an independence vote. And the United States withheld its endorsement and urged Taiwan not to be provocative.

This didn't discourage Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, who announced Friday that he wanted to hold the nuclear plant referendum on or before next year's March 20 presidential election.

"The world has many nations that have used referendums to settle major longstanding policy disputes," said Chen, who argued the vote was an important step in Taiwan's democratic development. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Junta blasts foreign media

RANGOON—Burma's military government accused dissidents and foreign media of trying to stir up unrest through their reports on opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who completes one month in detention on Monday. The state-run Kyemon newspaper said in a commentary Sunday that foreign media had made "slanderous accusations" against the government by "taking advantage of the incidents of May 30"—the day Suu Kyi and many of her supporters were detained in a crackdown in northern Burma. The junta has shown no sign of relenting, despite international outrage and demands for her release. ***AP***

Torturer extradited to Spain

MADRID—Former Argentine military official Ricardo Cavallo was extradited from Mexico to Spain to face charges of genocide and terrorism connected to his country's "dirty war," during which thousands were killed or vanished. Cavallo arrived aboard a Spanish air force Boeing 707 jet at the Torrejon de Ardoz air base on the outskirts of Madrid shortly after 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) Sunday after a 13-hour-flight from Mexico City. His extradition was one of the first won by crusading Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon, who will hear the case against Cavallo and has taken on other major human rights cases such as that of former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet. ***AP***

11 killed as porch collapses

CHICAGO—The overloaded third-floor porch of an apartment building collapsed during a party early Sunday, sending people and debris crashing to the ground. Eleven people were killed and as many as 35 others were injured, authorities said. There may have been dozens of people on the third-floor porch when it collapsed shortly past midnight, knocking the second-floor deck to the ground as well and trapping some people in a basement stairwell, authorities said. "There was chaos," Chicago Fire Commissioner James Joyce said of the scene that greeted the first emergency workers to arrive. "There were people screaming and crying in the alley." ***AP***

Peru's first woman premier

LIMA—Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo has chosen a well-known and respected independent lawyer as the country's first woman prime minister, capping a week of political turmoil in which his entire government resigned. Beatriz Merino replaces Luis Solari, head of the Peru Posible movement, who resigned Monday along with the rest of the Cabinet. The move had been widely expected after Peru Posible legislators last weekend refused to approve a tax hike to pay striking teachers, a measure that had the unanimous support of the Cabinet. Toledo, whose approval rating is at a rock-bottom 11 percent just two years into his tenure, offered a rare mea culpa Saturday as he swore in Merino and the rest of the Cabinet, which includes ten returning ministers and six new ones. He said he had become disconnected from regular Peruvians while focusing on economic matters, and vowed to regain their confidence. ***AP***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 30, 2003
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 18:16-33
Gospel: Mt 8:18-22

When Jesus saw the crowd press around him, he gave orders to cross to the other shore. A teacher of the Law approached him and said, "Master, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Another disciple said to him, "Lord, let me go and bury my father first." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Commentary

When we follow Jesus, he leads us along less trodden paths. He leads us away from the "comfort zones" of our quiet, ordinary existence. This is not another foolhardy adventure, a daredevil attempt to excite our senses. It is faith in a Person whose life and teaching show us the way to fulfillment. Those who live a life vowed to poverty, chastity and obedience are a potent testimony that Jesus is worth leaving great human and earthly values for. Yet renunciation is not just for them. Some relationships to things and persons are simply not compatible with our desire and struggle to be more like Jesus. We are to give them up. "Run, therefore, intending to win it, as athletes who impose upon themselves a rigorous discipline. Yet for them the wreath is of laurels which wither, while for us, it does not wither" (1Cor 9:25).

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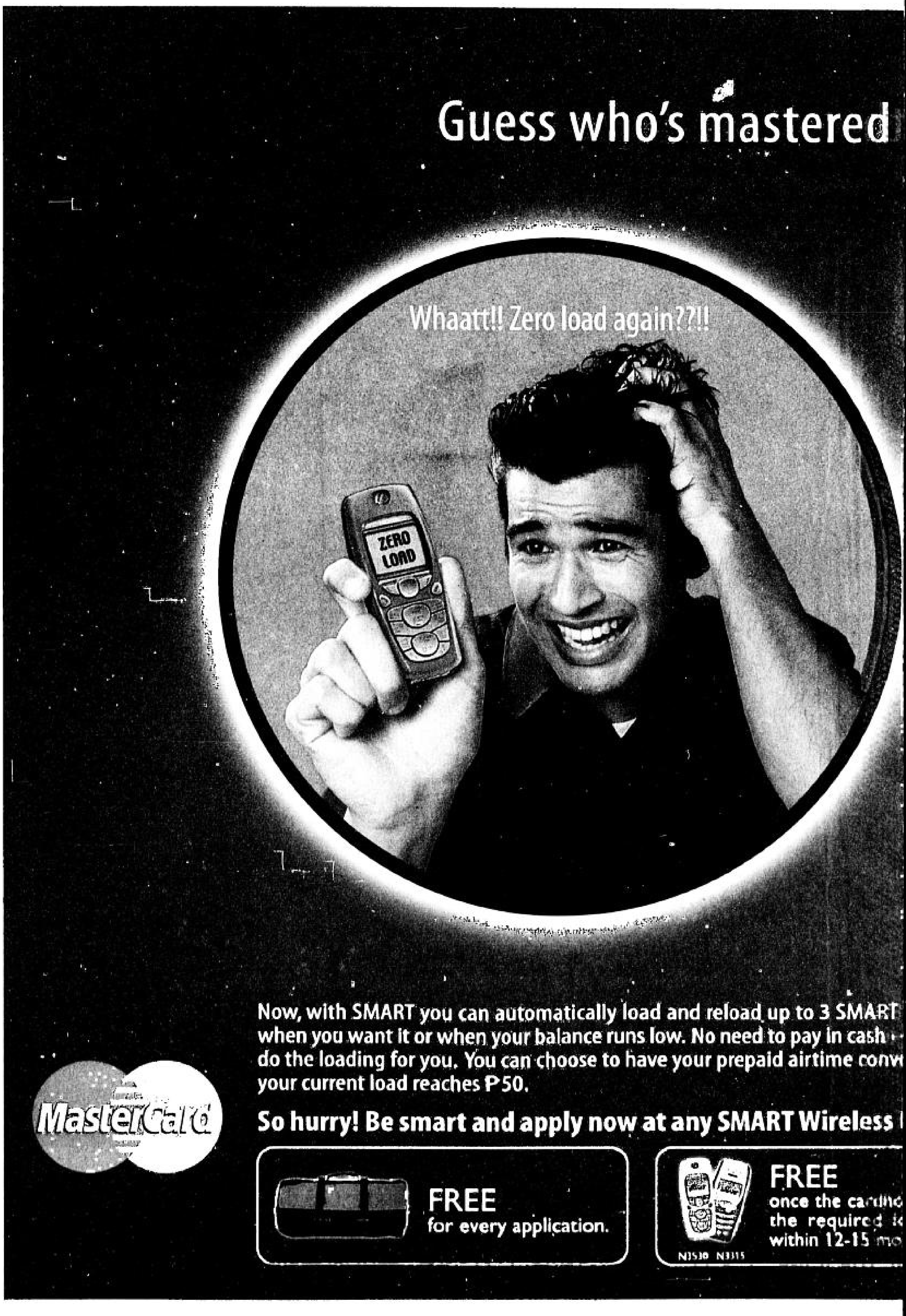

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US administrator still confident of Saddam arrest

BAGHDAD—The United States remained confident Sunday of bringing former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to book, while on the ground the military dug in its heels as the US death toll in the Iraq conflict rose above 200.

Sunday saw two more instances of Iraqis' dissatisfaction with the coalition force engaged in a campaign to rebuild their country as US troops came under attack yet again in the flashpoint town of Fallujah and the British headquarters in Basra was blocked by protestors.

The chances of capturing Saddam, toppled in the US-led invasion of Iraq launched in March but unsighted since the beginning of April, remain very good, Paul Bremer, the top US administrator in Iraq, said Sunday.

"I think the chances of catching Saddam are very high. We will catch him," Bremer told the BBC. "I think it is important that we do that, that we capture or kill him."

Bremer admitted that continued failure to account for Saddam's whereabouts was hampering the coalition's efforts to restore order in Iraq.

"There's no doubt that the fact that we had not been able to show his face allows the remnants of that Baathist regime to go around in the bazaars and in villages and in towns saying that Saddam will come back and we will come back, so don't cooperate with the coalition," he said.

As attacks on coalition forces become an almost daily occurrence, more than 200 US troops have now died in the war to oust the former Iraqi leader and the campaign to rebuild Iraq.

US troops in Fallujah came under rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack again overnight, for the third time in four days, even though there were no reports of casualties.

The latest incident was further evidence of how strained relations are in Fallujah, a Sunni Muslim stronghold 50 km west of Baghdad, which has been tense since US troops shot dead at least 16 people at a demonstration in late April.

In the main southern city of Basra, meanwhile, hundreds of former Iraqi soldiers angrily blocked the headquarters of British forces after the coalition failed to pay back wages.

The soldiers placed barbed wire and large rocks in front of the main entrance to the British headquarters set up in Saddam Hussein's old al-Barazhiya palace.

The Iraqis hurled stones, preventing two British ambulances from driving out of the compound and prompting an armored vehicle to take up position at the entrance.

"The British forces had promised to pay our wages on Saturday, so we came but they told us to come back on Sunday. Today, they asked us to come back tomorrow, they are liars," non-commissioned officer Kazem Ayal told AFP.

"There are members of the Baath party working with them to draw up lists, and we think they are doing everything to prevent the payment of our salaries," Ayal charged.

After threats of armed insurrection in the capital, the US-led coalition announced last week that it would begin regular payments to members of the disbanded army in mid-July.

The discovery of the remains of two US soldiers believed abducted and killed by Fedayeen militia still loyal to the ousted Baathist regime was followed on Sunday by news that their missing Humvee light armored vehicle had been recovered northwest of Baghdad—in the heartland of Saddam's supporters—while their personal effects were discovered in a house search on Friday.

A senior military official said that Iraq was still being treated as a war zone, despite US President George W. Bush declaring major combat operations over almost two months ago on May 1.

"The war is not over. What we do have is Saddam Fedayeen and Baathist leadership out there that is attempting to disrupt the coalition's efforts," he said, while describing them as working in "fragmented, small cells."

"There's a group out there with a common agenda—that is to disrupt coalition efforts and kill coalition soldiers," the official said. "These casualties that we are encountering are not causing us to falter in any way."

The campaign to snare former regime members has netted 900 former loyalists of the ousted Baath Party regime within the past week, a senior coalition official said Saturday, asking not to be identified.

He said some of those arrested had been released, but did not specify how many were still being held.

"On the high value targets we are steadily collecting the 55 key regime figures with over 30 collected so far," he said. "There is no doubt in my mind that we will be able to pick up the remainder."

Coalition forces launched the Desert Scorpion operation on June 15 to root out armed resistance by loyalists to the former regime. *AFP*

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BBC, London quarrel over 'sexed up' report

LONDON—The British government was Sunday locked in an increasingly bitter dispute with the BBC over its reports that Prime Minister Tony Blair's office embellished intelligence reports to justify war on Iraq.

Allies of Alastair Campbell, the government's powerful director of communications and a key Blair aide, piled on pressure for the public broadcaster to apologize, accusing it of "unethical journalism" and lies.

BBC journalist-turned government minister Ben Bradshaw claimed the BBC broke its own guidelines in the way it handled its controversial story.

"There are quite clear BBC guidelines that you should not rely on a single anonymous source," Bradshaw told BBC radio's flagship Today program on Saturday.

No attempt was made to test the truth of "the most serious accusation I can ever remember being leveled against any government," he said.

The argument centers on a BBC report in late May, in which an unidentified source said that Blair's inner circle last year "sexed up" a September dossier on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to hype up the case for war on Baghdad.

London and Washington used Iraq's alleged weapons program as a main justification for launching a war against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq in March.

When John Humphreys, a star presenter for the Today program, on Saturday told Bradshaw the defense ministry had been told of the contentious BBC story the day before it was broadcast, that comment quickly became a new bone of contention.

"This is just another example of the BBC desperately trying to defend the indefensible—namely poor and unethical journalism," Bradshaw said.

Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon then stepped into the row, saying in a statement: "I strongly support the request to the BBC to correct this morning's misleading comments. They are simply not true."

But BBC news director Richard Sambrook mounted a robust defense of the corporation's reports.

"In terms of Ben Bradshaw today, again, he has misrepresented our journalism and the way we conducted it," Sambrook said.

At the heart of the swirling accusations and counter-allegations is a one-sentence claim in the government's September dossier, which was compiled by intelligence services.

That sentence read: "Intelligence indicates that the Iraqi military are able to deploy chemical or biological weapons within 45 minutes of an order to do so."

On May 29, BBC radio's Today program quoted an unidentified source as suggesting that the line was inserted under pressure from the prime minister's office.

On Saturday, in a further twist to the row, Today defense correspondent Andrew Gilligan, who originally reported the allegation about the September dossier, threatened legal action.

He accused Phil Woolas, deputy House of Commons leader for the ruling Labor party, of trying to "blacken my character" in remarks made earlier this week.

Meanwhile, Sunday newspapers reported that Campbell was set to be cleared in an inquiry by the Parliament's foreign affairs select committee of charges that he inserted the claim that Saddam Hussein could launch weapons of mass destruction in 45 minutes.

The committee delivers its verdict a week Monday after taking evidence from Campbell and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

The body had received an intelligence assessment not previously disclosed to deputies which supported the 45-minute claim, The Sunday Telegraph reported.

One member of the committee told the paper: "It raises questions about how good our intelligence was, but I don't see how we can find Campbell guilty after that."

The Observer reported that the committee would conclude that Campbell did not interfere to ensure the 45-minute claim went into the document. *AFP*

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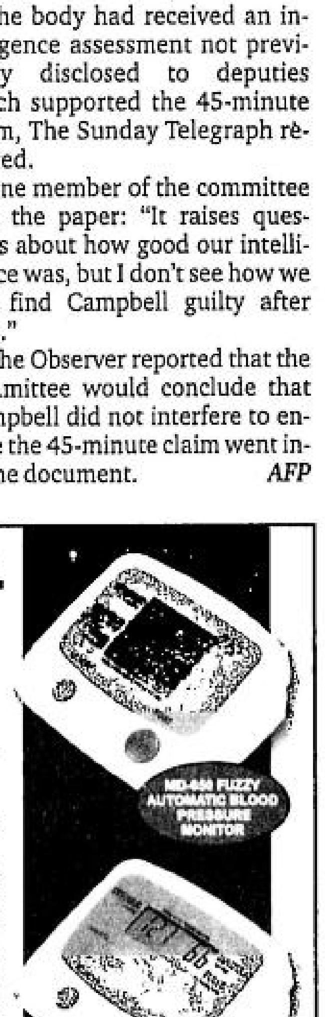
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6 soldiers wounded in clash

LUCENA CITY—Six Army soldiers were wounded in a two-hour clash with at least 100 New People's Army rebels in the vicinity of Sitio Kinasakitan, Barangay Canaway in Gen. Nakar, Quezon on Saturday.

A report reaching Camp Nakar identified the wounded soldiers as certain Sgts. Guban, Constantino and Lerios, Pfcs. Salaguit and Muracion and Pvt. Babasa.

They were airlifted to the Infanta District Hospital in nearby Infanta town, the military report said.

Acting on a tip from residents that the NPA rebels were conducting a training for new recruits, the soldiers led by certain Lts. Rabago and De Guzman from the 59th Infantry Battalion formed several teams that assaulted the area.

The government soldiers recovered an M-16 rifle, assorted ammunition, medical kits, personal belongings and anti-government documents.

The report also said two dead bodies of NPA rebels and an undetermined number of wounded were found on the encounter site.

In Vigan City, the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) asked for the release of two of its members who were linked to the blasting of the concrete Marcos bust in Tuba, Benguet, in December last year.

CEGP Chair Nerissa Guzman said Ma. Josephine Perez and Evelyn Bedana, who, the military claimed were NPA members, should be released immediately as they had nothing to do with the bombing.

"Their arrest only shows the blatant attack of the military on (the) leaders of progressive organizations," Guzman said in a press forum on Thursday.

Perez, 26, and Bedana, 53, were arrested last week in Barangay Bakakeng in Baguio City.

Reportedly recovered from them were .22 cal. and .38 cal. revolvers, explosives, 12 pieces of blasting caps, a blasting device, a timing device, a detonating cord and anti-government documents which, as the military described, had "high intelligence value."

Guzman said Perez of Burgos, Ilocos Sur is CEGP's Ilocos regional coordinator, while Bedana is also a staff member of the Solidarity of Peasants Against Exploitation (Stop-Ex) in Ilocos.

She said the military had "gravely violated" the rights of Perez and Bedana by detaining them for three days in Tarlac.

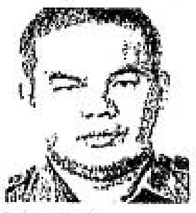
"This is a desperate attempt of the Macapagal government to save face amid the deepening political and economic crises and to ward off the intensifying people's struggle against her military-imposed strong republic," said Sherwin de Vera, spokesperson of Bayan-Ilocos.

In a statement, Lt. Col. Preme Monta, information officer of the Army's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), said Bedana, who carries the aliases "Araceli Arciaga" and "Rhoda," is the secretary of the NPA's Ilocos-Cordillera regional party committee (ICRC).

Monta said Perez, alias "Loren," is a political officer of the Komiteng Larangan Gerilya Sinag of the ICRC.

The two were presented to reporters at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on Wednesday. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



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Dead soldier's surviving baby gets support from government

By Eden B. Cidro
PDI Visayas Bureau

DOLORES, Eastern Samar—It will be a long journey for three-month old baby Jeffrey Canonigo.

From Barangay Cagpili, Oras town Eastern Samar, the once bloodied and mud covered baby has been cleaned up and is now in the temporary care of Gemma Mercado, another soldier's wife, after being turned over by Armyrose Campano, his mother's friend.

Gemma volunteered to take care of the boy because Armyrose has no experience in child caring.

Jeffrey, who was being breastfed by his mother Mary Jane, survives on infant formula. The soldiers belonging to the 52nd Infantry Battalion (IB) provides for his milk, diapers, and other needs.

Gemma says the boy rarely cries.

On Saturday afternoon, the boy was taken to the headquarters of the Army's 8th Infantry Division in Catbalogan, Samar, about 150 km away from this town.

Gemma and Armyrose brought the baby to the 8th ID headquarters where the bodies of five soldiers, including the baby's father Pfc. Jesus Canonigo and mother Mary Jane were also transferred.

From there, they will be brought to their hometowns. In the case of the Canonigos, the couple as well as the baby will be brought to Tabon-tabon town, Leyte, Jesus' hometown.

Although both sets of grandparents are still alive, Lt. Col. Ernesto Benitez Jr., 52nd IB commanding officer, said the grandparents would have to decide among themselves who will take custody of the baby.

Meantime, he added, the baby will be turned over to his paternal grandparents.

Last Saturday, Jesus' brother went to Dolores to see his brother and to get his nephew.

But Benitez said they did not turn over the baby to Jesus' brother because under the Family Code, in cases like this, the baby should be turned over to the grandparents.

Jeffrey lost both his parents on Thursday, when about 100 communist rebels swooped in on the military detachment of the Alpha Company 52nd IB in Barangay Cagpili, an interior village located about 60 km from Oras.

Aside from the Canonigos, four soldiers and 10 militiamen (not 11 as earlier reported) were killed when the rebels attacked and burned down the detachment.

Two soldiers were seriously wounded. They were Corporals Efren Marguez and Florentino Nadera. One soldier was unhurt Staff— Sergeant Noel Dumaguin.

According to the survivors, Mary Jane, upon seeing that her husband was hit, put her baby inside the foxhole, picked up Jesus' rifle and fired at the attackers, until she too was hit. Mary Jane died on the way to the Oras District Hospital.

The couple were married almost a year ago. A loving couple, Mary Jane, a native of Bayugan town, Agusan del Sur, would often visit Jesus in Oras because she did not have any work.

As the last and fateful visit, Mary Jane came all the way from Bayugan town to show her husband their three-month old baby.

The boy will receive benefits from the government in the form of trust and educational funds.

With his relatives eager to take him into custody, and with the benefits he is sure to get, hopefully, Jeffrey will grow up to be the son his parents would be proud of.

But then nothing could compensate for the loss of both parents.

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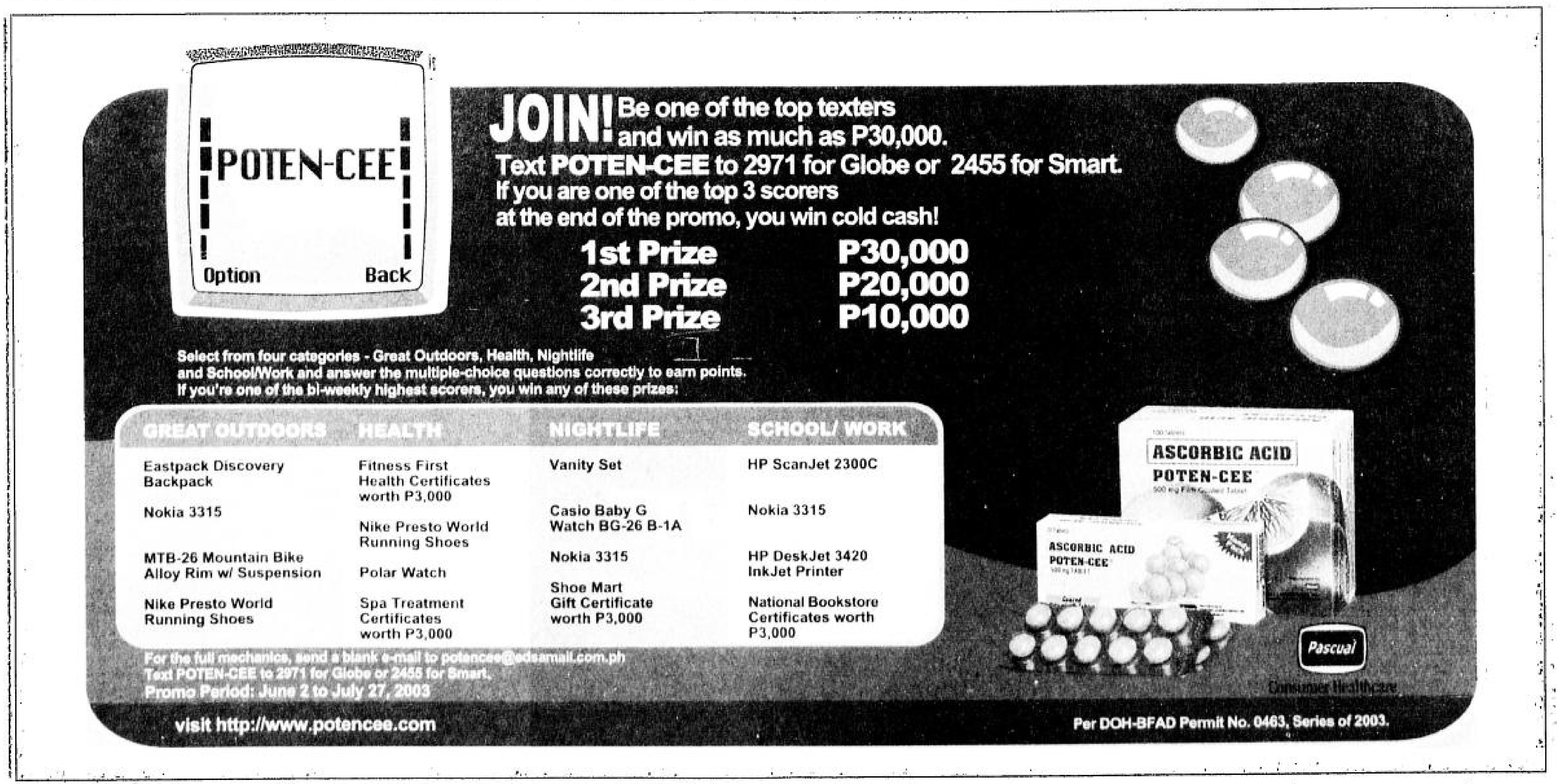

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3	IBC	6.2
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5	RPN	2.2

* 6:00pm to 10:00pm

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1	**ABS-CBN**	**38.7**
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3	Studio 23	4.8
4	IBC	3.7
5	MTV Philippines	1.6

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1	**ABS-CBN**	**38.0**
2	GMA	36.9
3	Studio 23	5.7
4	IBC	2.5
5	RPN	1.6

* 12:00nn to 6:00pm

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
EVENING*

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**43.2**
2	GMA	30.3
3	IBC	5.6
4	Studio 23	3.8
5	RPN	2.2

* 6:00pm to 12:00mn

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2	**Basta't Kasama Kita**	**ABS-CBN**	**38.09**
3	**Darating Ang Umaga**	**ABS-CBN**	**35.87**
4	**Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay**	**ABS-CBN**	**35.86**
5	**Bituin**	**ABS-CBN**	**35.14**
6	**Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas**	**ABS-CBN**	**34.89**
7	**Meteor Garden**	**ABS-CBN**	**33.11**
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10	**OK Fine Whatever!**	**ABS-CBN**	**25.69**
11	**TV Patrol**	**ABS-CBN**	**25.53**
12	**Magandang Gabi Bayan**	**ABS-CBN**	**24.63**
13	**Wansapanataym**	**ABS-CBN**	**23.77**
14	K! The P1,000,000 Videoke Challenge	GMA	22.07
15	**Buttercup**	**ABS-CBN**	**22.06**

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
OVERALL*

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**40.6**
2	GMA	33.0
3	Studio 23	4.6
4	IBC	4.1
5	RPN	1.8

* 6:00am to 12:00mn

Source: AGB Mega Manila Households Data, 01 May - 21 June 2003

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Boy charred to death in 45-minute fire

CEBU CITY—A ten-year-old boy was charred to death after he went back inside his room during the 45-minute fire that razed down 10 houses in Sitio Baca, Barangay Apas, Cebu City on Friday.

Authorities identified the fatality as Jose Carlo Esparagera, son of Miguel and Natalie Esparagera who were at their separate workplaces during the fire that broke at around 8 p.m.

SFO1 Julito Manding, investigator of the Cebu City fire department, said the blaze started at the second floor of the house owned by Ramon Latasa. The room, from where the fire started, was occupied by Latasa's son-in-law Roberto Tagunde. The room was locked because Roberto and his wife were not around.

Manding said the cause of the fire could not be determined yet.

The body of Esparagera was recovered around 6 a.m. yesterday. It was not immediately known that the boy was missing because several people noticed him outside the house during the fire.

It was believed that the boy went back to get his important things inside his room, but was trapped instead.

Manding said at least P600,000 worth of properties were destroyed in the fire. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

STREET CARNIVAL

REUTERS

Girls carry wicker baskets on their heads in the streets of Tacloban City on June 28, during a festival called "Kasadyaan," a celebration that showcases the unique culture and colourful history of Leyte. Thousands of residents participated in the annual event to demonstrate how early settlers of the island accepted Christianity.

Gov't worker, teacher held for drugs

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) last week arrested two government employees suspected of being drug pushers and makers of fake money in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat.

In a belated report reaching the PDEA office in Central Mindanao, Tacurong City PDEA chief PO2 Mario Mercadez identified the suspects as Mirriam Ceballos-Pelaez and Nestor Porras.

In his report, Mercadez said Pelaez is an employee of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Sultan Kudarat, while Porras is a teacher at the Masiag Elementary School, Bagumbayan, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.

The two were arrested on the strength of a search warrant issued by Judge Milanio Guerrero of the Tacurong City Municipal Trial Court.

They were arrested along with three other suspected drug pushers during a raid in a house in Tacurong City.

The three other suspects apprehended were identified as Al Barometro, Darwin Parreño and Rener Gumban.

PDEA agents seized from the suspects' hideout several sachets of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu), a computer equipped with accessories used in the reproduction of fake money, three pieces of counterfeit P1,000 bills, 17 pieces of bogus P500 bills, an Ingram pistol, a copying machine and a .9mm magnum magazine.

In Davao City, suspected vigilante members gunned down two more suspected pushers on Friday morning, just as the police announced it was intensifying its anti-drug campaign.

The deaths of Allan Dael and Joven Lavina brought the number of persons summarily executed by members of the so-called Davao Death Squad to 16 in a span of 8 days.

In Zamboanga City, officials of the PDEA in Western Mindanao have questioned a government report indicating that the region ranks second to the National Capital Region in terms of the number of drug syndicates.

Sr. Supt. Julmunier Jubail, PDEA-9 chief, told the INQUIRER that the report was outdated.

Jubail said in the report, the region's coverage includes the Lanao provinces and Misamis Occidental although "our real area of coverage now is limited to Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte, Sibugay and Isabela City in Basilan."

Based on PDEA's latest monitoring, there are only nine drug syndicates operating in the region and not 22 as suggested by the report in question, he pointed out.

In Roxas City, Senior Supt. Efren Quinto, Capiz police director, said administrative charges would be filed against a policeman tested positive of drug use in two tests.

SPO1 Bernardo Bulacan, an asset of the anti-drug Provincial Special Operations Group (PSOG) was placed under camp restriction at the Capiz police office pending the filing of administrative case against him.

Quinto said Bulacan admitted using illegal drugs and even pleaded for mercy that he would not be dismissed from the service.

Bulacan was found positive of shabu during a drug test on June 9. This was the second time the policeman was tested positive of drug use.

The first was in August last year when Bulacan was still assigned at the Mambusao police station, Quinto said.

Bulacan was later assigned at the administrative section of the Capiz police office "for close monitoring." He later became the "asset" of the PSOG.

Thirty policemen in Capiz, including the 17 chiefs of police from Roxas City and different municipalities, underwent drug testing on June 9.

This was in compliance with a directive from Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., which requires all policemen in the country to undergo mandatory random drug tests.

Random drug testing was also conducted last June 16 at PRO-6 on 50 policemen who were all found negative of drug use. *Aquiles Zonio, Anthony Allada and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Gerry Pagharion and Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

All he wanted was to go home, says mother of PMA cadet

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DINGRAS, Ilocos Norte—All that Cadet Fourth Class Jomel Ariel Valencia wanted was to go home. Against the advice of his parents for him to stay further at the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City, Valencia followed his will but ended up dead.

"He always wanted to come home. He is home. And that is what matters. I have accepted his fate. My mind is at peace that we have found him," Jomel's mother Gloriosa said.

"Perhaps, our only fault is we failed to take him home sooner. But I know he understands. We tried to follow up on his papers so that he could quit, but it came too late."

Valencia's decomposing body was found half-buried in mud and shrubbery at the bottom of a 70-meter ravine near Kennon Road in Baguio City on Thursday night, 10 days after he was reported missing from the PMA. He apparently died from a fall.

Police and PMA doctors detected a major depression on the right lobe of Valencia's skull as well as a broken ankle, which suggested that he could have fallen from a cliff.

Valencia's father, retired Air Force 2nd Lt. James Valencia, was less forgiving. "We will seek justice for my son. We hope to pursue that after his burial," he said.

The elder Valencia kept repeating he wanted his son's death brought to justice but declined to blame anyone.

He said Jomel always wanted to pursue a military career.

"He charted his future on his own. When he was about to graduate in high school, he showed me a signed application letter for the PMA. He wanted my signature so I signed it," the father said.

Jomel took the qualifying exam for the PMA in August last year, received the result three months later and submitted for a physical examination in January the following year.

"He went to Baguio in April and that was the last time he stayed here. We attended the day he was incorporated in April and that was the last time we saw him alive," he added.

He wanted out

Jomel had spoken of his desire to go home after his incorporation to the PMA. He told his mother he wanted to leave the academy and take at least a year to rest then go back.

"I prevailed over him to stay since he has gone through a lot," Gloriosa said without going through specifics on what prompted her son to leave the PMA.

In early June after the cadets' mandatory field training exercises in Subic Bay Freeport, Jomel apparently had turned back on his word and wanted to stay on.

"We learned (from his classmates) that he changed his mind. He told his classmates he no longer wanted to quit because he was already enjoying (it there)," Jomel's mother said.

Valencia reportedly left a letter that suggested why and how he wanted to leave the academy, a PMA source said. The contents of the letter had not yet been made public, although the source said the note appeared to establish that Valencia had indeed planned to go on absent-without-leave (Awol).

Honor student

Valencia was always at the top ten of his class. He graduated with honors at the Divine Word College of Laoag (DWCL) where he received his secondary schooling.

He was also active in scouting in his school and was one of those picked to go to Thailand in December last year for an international jamboree.

As a scout leader, Jomel attended the national jamboree in Leyte in 2001.

"Among all the scout leaders who handled us, it was only Jomel who would instill discipline without having to shout at the top of his voice. He was a gentle leader," said David Maraña, a junior student of DWCL and a former scouting team member who shared tent with Jomel in Leyte.

Sealed coffin

Jomel's flag-draped coffin arrived at the Valencia home Saturday morning.

PMA cadets earlier raised P300,000 from their allowances to send Valencia home to Dingras.

Valencia's parents said they would do away with the Ilocano tradition of observing a nine-day wake preceding the burial.

The morticians in Baguio reportedly advised the couple to have the body lie in state for at least three days due to the body's advanced state of decomposition.

The Valencias have not attempted to view Jomel's body. "We will no longer open it even privately. My heart will only bleed further if I see my son in his current condition. I would rather keep the memories while he was still alive," Gloriosa said.

"He was a good son. He will be taken care of in heaven. We can't do anything if the Lord wants to take him now." *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

TREE PLANTERS

Puerto Princesa residents took time out to plant seedlings in the denuded Magarwak Watershed in Barangay Sta. Lourdes as they celebrated the Feast of the Forests. Among those who did their share in the tree planting are Pam Oppus, representative of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Rep. Baham Mitra and Thomas Kizis, trustee of the Tagbalay Foundation, according to a photo release.

Sagada implements zero waste management to save river

SAGADA, Mt. Province—There is hope that the water of the polluted Chico River will become clear again as the town government is now strictly implementing zero waste management.

Dr. Penelope Domogo, assistant provincial health officer, said the pollution in the Chico River was caused by indiscriminate dumping of garbage.

Last month, residents of Kalinga filed a complaint against the Mt. Province government because the latter's garbage was polluting the river.

The 80-km long Chico River, which traverses through the highlands of Mt. Province and Kalinga to the Cagayan River, is one of major sources of water of the two provinces.

"But we are glad that Sagada is leading the zero waste management to save the river," Domogo said in a recent provincial peace and order council meeting here.

The Kalinga government has been promoting Chico River for its whitewater kayaking adventure trips. The river connects to 10 more tributaries around the lush mountains of Kalinga.

Chico River, one of the major rivers in Mt.Province, became a symbol of unity among the tribes in the Cordillera after Kalinga chieftain Macliing Dulag led his people and the Kankanaeys in opposing the construction of the Chico Dam during the regime of Ferdinand Marcos.

Dulag's opposition led to his death on April 24, 1980 in Bugnay Village in Kalinga. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Village officials suspended

CABANATUAN CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman has suspended six barangay officials in Aliaga, Nueva Ecija, for six months on charges of misconduct and abuse of authority. In a six-page decision, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez suspended Anastacio Sagun, barangay captain of San Emiliano, Aliaga; barangay councilmen Rufino Yabot and Romy Beltran; and village guards Marcos Beltran, Cris Beltran and one identified only as "Gani." The suspension stemmed from charges filed by two men whom the barangay officials arrested and mistreated as suspects in a fight in the village. But investigations showed that witnesses had absolved the two men, who they said were the wrong persons accused of starting the fight.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

5 nabbed for 'hot narra'

ILAGAN, Isabela—Policemen and environment personnel arrested five men on Tuesday for transporting illegally cut narra in Dinapigue town. Confiscated from the five men were at least 3,300 board feet of narra flitches. Authorities intercepted the suspects' truck along Makadigo Creek in Barangay Dibulo, Dinapigue. The truck, police said, is owned by a policeman assigned in Dilasag, Aurora.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 farmers held

MALVAR, Batangas—Police arrested two farmers after an encounter with a group of armed men on Friday in Barangay Luta Sur. Batangas police director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay said Estilito Collado, 59, and Romeo Laydia, 33, were invited for questioning seven hours after the encounter. Reportedly confiscated from them a 9mm hand pistol from Collado who will also undergo a paraffin test. Police said witnesses positively pointed to the two as belonging to the armed group who were last seen in the area.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village cops arrested

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—At least two arms-carrying village policemen were arrested by members of the elite Presidential Security Group as the suspects mingled with the crowd during the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Dolores, Quezon on Tuesday. A police report identified the arrested suspects as Ramon Barboza, 43, village police chief of Barangay Antonio, and Mario Brucal, 38, a village cop of Barangay Pinagdanlayan. The presidential security seized from Barboza a fully loaded 22-caliber revolver while a homemade 38-caliber revolver from Brucal. The suspects were reportedly arrested as they were getting closer to the site of the program where the President was about to deliver her speech in Barangay Putol.

Dellin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Holdup in E. Samar

QUINAPONDAN, Eastern Samar—One person was wounded on Tuesday afternoon when three armed robbers fired at a meat delivery van owned by the Eastern Visayas Food Trade Center Inc. and escaped with P20,000 in Barangay Sta. Margarita, about six km from the town proper. The van carrying 800 kilos of dressed chickens came from Guiuan town and was on its way to MacArthur town. Wounded was collector Juanillo Requillos. The driver and another worker were unharmed. This was the third holdup in the same area this year. *Cyrain Cabueñas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Roads not Cha-cha

DUMAGUETE CITY—A cross-section of Dumagueteños attending a recent consultation here on the issue of Charter change said the millions of pesos that the government intends to use for amending the Constitution could be better used to build roads and bridges. This was the sentiment of a group of some 20 representatives from the academe, business, professional groups, government and students who participated in a consultation on Constitutional changes, according to former Philippine Ambassador to Rome Jose Romero, who convened the forum. This was one of the several forums conducted throughout the country for nearly one year now at the instance of the government's Office of Special Concerns, of which Romero is a member. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Co-op central bank

DUMAGUETE CITY—The cooperative movement in the country is gaining headway in its goal to establish a central bank for cooperatives through the National Confederation of Cooperatives-Central Fund (Natcco-CF). The Natcco-CF has P74 million in deposits from 56 of Natcco's 1,200 affiliates. Party-list Rep. Cris Paez, Natcco-CF manager, said the confederation is projecting a P600-million deposit from 600 affiliates next year. Ultimately, Paez said the Natcco-CF will "act as the Bangko Sentral for the cooperatives, NGOs and people's organizations." *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Royalty payments

ORMOC CITY—The city government here and the town of Kananga are over P100 million richer in royalty from the Philippine National Oil Corporation-Energy Development Corp. Two Land Bank checks totaling P127.8 million were paid last month to the two local government units by the PNOC-EDC, representing royalty payment from the third quarter of 1997 up to the first quarter of 2002 for the company's operation in Tongonan geothermal plants in Kananga and Ormoc. The Kananga municipal government, through Mayor Giovanni Napari, received P60,743,424.63 in royalty. Ormoc City, through Mayor Carmelo Locsin, received P67,137,469.33. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Theft queen arrested

TABACO CITY—An alleged "theft queen" in this city and neighboring towns was arrested after her latest victim filed a case in court against her. Supt. Eliciar Bron, city police chief, identified the suspect as Imelda Bañez, 36, married and a resident of Balading, Malinao town. Victim Grace Padilla filed a case of theft against Bañez before the Tabaco Municipal Trial Court after she recovered her 3310 Nokia cellphone stolen by the suspect inside their house. Bañez had been many times put to jail for the same offense and was released each time, after the 12-hour detention period had expired.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Batangueños bike, walk to plant trees, save dying falls

BATANGAS CITY—Just before the sun rose on Saturday morning, about 5,000 Batangueños, including a thousand bikers, have flocked to the city's Laurel Park, eager to join the province's biggest tree-planting activity that aimed to save a dying falls.

The tree planters—mostly youth, cycling enthusiasts, environmentalists who came from government offices, barangays and communities—joined the "Padyakasan: Padyak para sa Kalikasan, Padyak para sa Kinabukasan" (Bike for Nature, Bike for the Future).

The participants planted more than 20,200 mahogany and caballero trees near the Tingga Falls, the city's old dump in Barangay Tingga Labac, and along the major tributaries leading to the city's biggest river, the Calumpang River.

The river is considered ecologically dead because all the tributaries leading to it have become dumps for wastes from the city and nearby towns.

"We're hoping that when these trees grow in about five years, air pollution in the city will be (reduced) and help revive the dying falls," Batangas City Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha said.

The Save the Tingga Falls Movement has raised P1 million from the city government. This will be used to construct the broken-down stone steps that lead to the falls, according to City Environment and Natural Resources Officer Felipe Baroja.

Tingga Falls was the famed Pagsanjan Falls of Batangas and even served as the source of the water system of the entire city after the Japanese occupation.

It was in the `90s when the livestock industry started to bloom, and when storms destroyed the stone steps, the falls became polluted.

The move to save the falls, also located in Tingga Labac, started in February last year in cooperation with the Cenro, the barangay council, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines-Batangas City chapter, and the city government. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bishops urge protection for Samar natural park

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CATBALOGAN, Samar—The Catholic bishops in the three Samar provinces are appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to proclaim a natural park in the country's third largest island as a protected area.

Bishop Jose Palma of the Diocese of Calbayog in Samar said the declaration of the proposed Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) would benefit the Samareños who are mostly poor and are dependent on upland forest and biodiversity resources.

Palma said an executive proclamation of the SINP "is a wonderful gift for the Samareños."

He said he and Bishop Leonardo Medroso of the Diocese of Borongan and Bishop Angel Hobayan of the Diocese Catarman have thrown their "solid and full support" to the different groups and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that have been pushing for the immediate declaration of the SINP.

"They have been in Samar for a long time and are more aware of the issues," said Palma, who has been the bishop of Calbayog during the past four years.

The SINP covers some 333,300 hectares of land that straddles the provinces of Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar.

The area, which comprises about a third of Samar Island, is rich in biodiversity resources including old and secondary growth forests as well as threatened and rare species.

The call for the President's immediate declaration of the SINP as protected area under the National Integrated Protected Area System (Nipas) came after local environmentalists learned that the government signed an agreement with two large-scale mining companies to mine bauxite in an area that reportedly includes headwaters and old growth forest.

The government was said to be processing several applications for mining operations in Samar Island.

Some logging companies were also seeking the lifting of the logging ban so they could operate again in the hinterland of Samar.

A logging moratorium was declared in 1989 after floods and landslides hit Samar Island that claimed nearly 100 lives and destroyed P100 million worth of crops. The rapid forest destruction was blamed for the disaster.

"If there is mining, for sure the whole of Samar would be affected. So we, the three bishops of Samar, have united in trying to proclaim our stake and our hold in caring for Creation, in opposing what we believe to be destructive of the environment in Samar," Palma said.

Some people were tempted by the temporary gains of other alternatives like mining, Palma said.

But he stressed that he and the other two bishops believed that the declaration of the SINP had a bigger and long-range benefit to the poor Samareños.

The bishop of Calbayog pointed out that the environment is a social concern that the Church has long been involved in.

"(The environment) is also a moral issue, particularly in Samar because whatever happens in Samar Island affects all the three Samar provinces," he said.

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Gov't failure to pay environment workers on Apo Island scored

DUMAGUETE CITY—The environment official assigned in the internationally known Apo Island in Dauin, some 14 km south of here, has expressed concern over the failure of the national government to release the honoraria of Bantay Dagat members and utility workers in the island for six months now.

Chamberlain Babiera, protected area superintendent of Apo Island, told the INQUIRER that the 24 Bantay Dagat members and 10 utility workers in the island have yet to receive their honoraria since January.

Babiera said this was the first time such problem took place. But he was all praises for these people because despite the long delay in their honoraria, they continued to perform their job efficiently.

This, he said, is an indication of their commitment to their job and to their island.

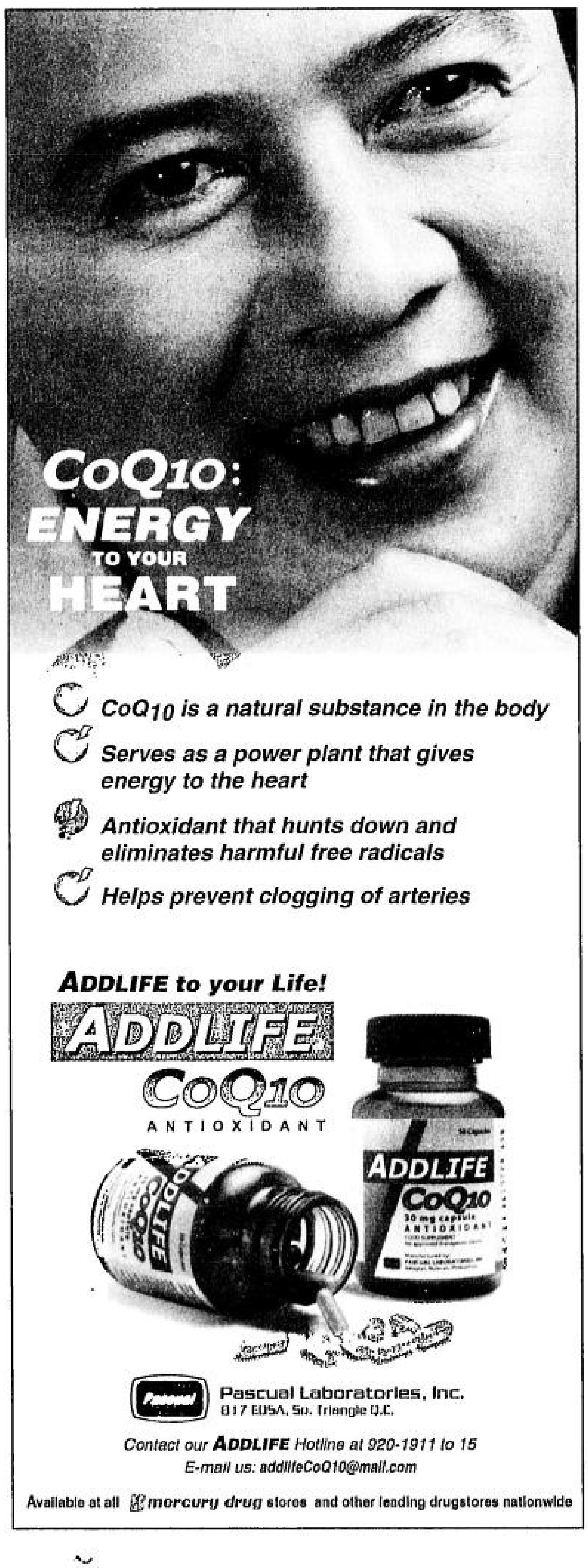
Babiera was, however, concerned that the worker's enthusiasm may not be sustained if the situation continued.

Babiera said the Bantay Dagat members deputized to enforce fishery laws, and rules and regulations designed to protect the world-renowned scuba diving spot are entitled to a P500-monthly honorarium each, while a utility worker is entitled to a P400-monthly honorarium.

The amount is supposed to be taken from the 75 percent of the collection from different fees imposed by the island to its visitors.

Babiera said an average of P75,000 is collected monthly in Apo Island from local and foreign tourists.

However, he said the amount is first remitted to the national government that returns the money to the island as soon as the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) requests for its release, usually in November of each year. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*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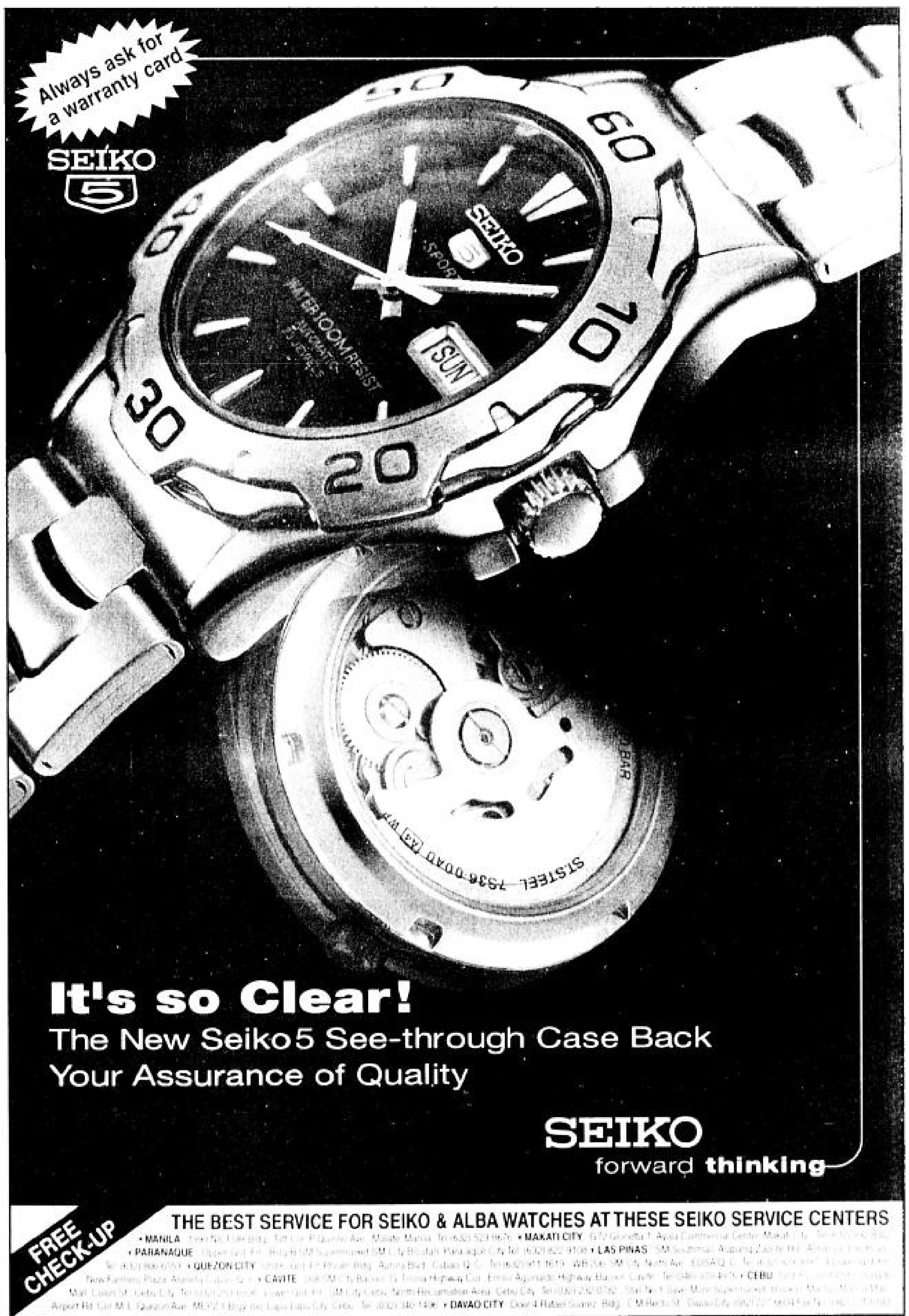
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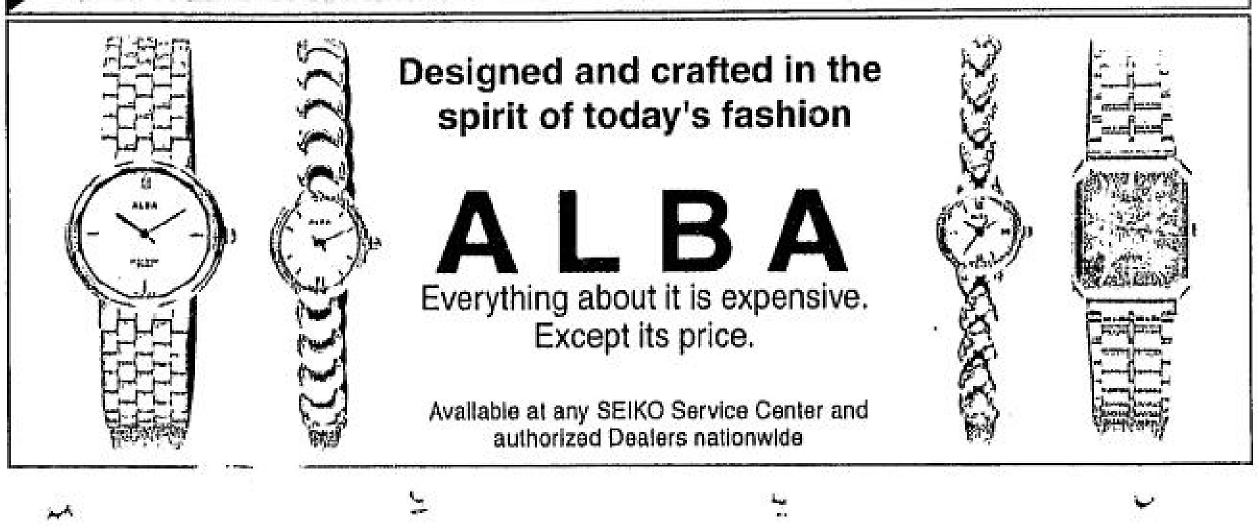
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Hogwash, Muslims say of US solon's antiterror advice

From page A1

news items of interest with my colleagues."

But American Muslim groups were furious. One group called on the Massachusetts Senate to open an ethics investigation and censure Glodis.

"We're outraged," said Raeed Tayeh of the American Muslim Association in North America (Amana).

"If the senator believes that this is a solution to terrorism and believes such ridiculous notions then this is disturbing for an elected official to have such a belief and (be) spreading such beliefs," Tayeh said in a statement.

"This is ... reckless behavior because the story (about Pershing) is obviously not true," he said.

Glodis told the Boston Globe the Pershing story was a matter of historical fact.

"And it's also not true that if a Muslim comes into contact with a pig he would be denied heaven. This is ridiculous," Tayeh said.

"It's one of those urban legends that keeps being passed on like a terrible chain letter," the Boston Globe quoted Tayeh as saying. "God admits people to heaven based on their actions. This is what Muslims believe."

According to the Boston Globe, most of the Massachusetts senators declined to comment on the controversy. Two state senators defended Glodis' right to circulate the leaflet under the First Amendment, but one senator threw his copy away.

"The First Amendment of the United States allows people to be eloquent in how they express themselves or to be troglodytes. It doesn't discriminate. Clearly the senator is able to exercise his First Amendment rights and has chosen to do so. And I am free to throw it in the garbage," the Boston Globe quoted Sen. Jarrett T. Barrios as saying. *AFP*

TRAFFIC ENFORCER

President Macapagal directs traffic for her own convoy which became stalled while on its way to the Rajah Sulayman Park in Manila.

ERIK ARAZAS

Sex case sows chaos at NLRC

From page A1

With the CA's decision, Rayala wrote, "there is no legal impediment preventing my assumption to the office as chairman."

He said he was going back to vindicate his name and that of his family. He did not explain, however, how he would vindicate his name when the CA decision, in fact, found him guilty as charged, but lowered his sentence.

His impending return has raised fears among the employees who testified against him, including his victim.

"I am now living in fear," said stenographer Ma. Lourdes Domingo. "I am just a lowly employee, *ano ang laban ko* (how can I fight him)?"

"I experienced such hardship when the case was still running and he was still (chair)," Domingo said.

Appointed by then President Joseph Estrada in 1998, Rayala was removed from office on June 1, 2000 after the Office of the President found him guilty of sexually harassing Domingo, a stenographic reporter assigned to his office.

Case history

Domingo filed a complaint with the secretary of labor on Nov. 18, 1998.

She said that on several occasions, Rayala stroked and squeezed her either while she was taking dictation or typing, which made her very uneasy.

She said Rayala also made lewd remarks at her.

Domingo finally broke her silence after Rayala made sexual advances on her while she was taking dictation inside his office on Nov. 9, 1998.

Because Rayala was a. presidential appointee, the labor department referred Domingo's complaint to the Office of the President.

Malacañang ordered then Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma to conduct an investigation. On March 3, 2000, the probe found Rayala guilty of the charges and recommended that the official be suspended for a year.

However, on March 8, the Office of the President revised the decision and instead dismissed Rayala from service. In its decision, Malacañang said Rayala's acts were "not just a failure to give due courtesy and respect to his co-employees (subordinates) or to maintain good conduct and behavior but defiance of the basic norms or virtues which a government official must at all times uphold."

"Otherwise stated, respondent—to whom stricter standards must apply being the highest official in the NLRC—had shown an attitude, a frame of mind, a disgraceful conduct, which renders him unfit to remain in the service," the decision stated.

Rayala filed a case with the Court of Appeals. On May 24, 2000, the CA's 11th Division "affirmed in toto" Malacañang's decision.

Rayala appealed again, this time before the CA's 9th Division. The division, while upholding the findings that Rayala was guilty of sexually harassing his employee, lowered his penalty to one year suspension, saying this was the maximum penalty for sexual harassment. This second decision was upheld by the CA's 11th Division on June 3, 2003.

Rightful position?

In his letter to Señeres, Rayala said he was merely assuming his rightful position as NLRC chair.

"Please understand that my action is not directed against your good self but dictated by the circumstances, especially in my relentless desire to vindicate my name and that of my family," Rayala wrote.

He added that his assumption was also dictated by the fact that he is due for mandatory retirement on Dec. 28, 2003, or some six months from now.

Like the other employees who corroborated Domingo's statements, Domingo said she was afraid Rayala would get back at them.

"But I still thank God. What is more important to me now is that I've proven that he's guilty," Domingo said.

Mike helps raise ₱2.5M ...

From page A1

her husband and 29 others were forced by their employer to sign bank loans.

The 30 seamen were jailed after their employer failed to pay the amount. Seven of them were released but the 23 were ordered to remain in jail until the loans were paid.

Señeres and the women maintained the seamen were not guilty.

The men were subsequently cleared after their company's accountant, Indian Stanley Pereira, confessed to padding their bank accounts and pocketing the excess amount.

"But the damage had been done and our husbands are suffering for a crime they never committed," Agustin told guests.

To this, Arroyo and his guests replied with a sympathetic silence and later promised "to do everything we can to get them home," said Agustin, 37, spokesperson for the seamen's families.

Since the matter was brought up to him early this year, Arroyo has coordinated with Charge d'Affaires to Abu Dhabi Joey Ampeso and Consul Rene Villa to negotiate the men's release.

The 23 seamen are Nestor Agustin, Jose Diaz, Samuel Ramirez, Renato Tejero, Edward Reyes, Leonardo Zapata, Alvin John Tayao, Johnny Villasoto, Ildefonso Amul, Frederick Caramoan, Antonio Hafalla, Rufino Sawali, Albert Dagsa, Nicasio Dagsa, Ronnie Valdez, Joel Sumalde, Paulito Gimena, Marianito Gimena, Mario Algodon, Rogelio Gariando, Marcelino Silan, Fred Vertudez and Danilo Padilla.

Señeres said he hoped that, after full payment, the seamen would be released in two weeks.

Compostela Valley mayor killed ...

From page A1

Bantay-Dagat patrol along the coastline of the town.

Brillantes became controversial last year after he ordered the closure of mining tunnels in the Diwalwal area in Monkayo. Himself a tunnel owner, he cited environmental reasons for the closure, alleging that the mining operations were polluting the rivers.

But other tunnel owners and small-scale miners accused the mayor of planning to take over their operations. The government has since controlled mining activities in Diwalwal.

Brillantes' driver, Jun Rey Grafil, 22, said the mayor visited his farm in Toril District here and his home at Marfori Heights before going to see the five-cock P2-million derby at the Davao Matina Gallera on Saturday night.

Grafil said he was outside the arena waiting for the mayor when he heard gunfire at around 10:40 p.m. He later saw his boss being carried by Emmanuel Brillantes, the mayor's younger brother.

In yet another tragedy, while on their way to the hospital, Grafil's vehicle hit another car, killing its passenger, Luis Francisco, 64. Grafil later surrendered to the police.

Reynaldo Espanola, vice president of Joel Brillantes Management and Mining Corp. (JBMMC), said the mayor had received several threats to his life "because of his pro-environment stand."

Brillantes' closure order was upheld by Judge Eugenio Valles of the Regional Trial Court of Compostela. Valles was gunned down a year ago.

But police could yet not ascertain if Brillantes' death was an offshoot of his conflict with the tunnel operators and small-scale miners. "We cannot conclude [that] now since the investigation is still ongoing," Chief Supt. Isidro Lapena, police chief for Southern Mindanao, told the INQUIRER.

Lapena said investigators were still checking the suspected assassin's background.

Many angles

Col. Gaudencio Pangilina, Task Force Davao commander, said all possible angles were being looked into, including the involvement of the communist New People's Army.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte told reporters to wait for the results of the police investigation. He said he could not yet determine the motive for the killing.

Compostela Valley Gov. Jose Caballero also called on Monkayo residents to wait for the probe results, saying the incident could trigger much speculation. Brillantes, he said, had been very controversial in both his personal and official capacities, especially on the Diwalwal issue.

"There are too many possible angles and let us not muddle the issue," Caballero said. He said, however, that mining operations had improved in Diwalwal since the government took over last year.

In Pangasinan, Mayor Zaragoza was buried on Sunday in Tayug amid calls for justice for his death.

Zaragoza, 61, was gunned down a week ago by armed men believed to be communist rebels while he was leaving a cockpit in the town. The cockpit's caretaker, Wilfredo Hidalgo, was also killed, while seven others were wounded.

About 1,000 mourners attended the funeral that was preceded by necrological rites at the Zaragoza College where the wake was held, and a Mass at the town church.

Ribbons, armbands

Zaragoza's family and friends wore yellow ribbons on their chests and black armbands. In front of the funeral car was a white streamer with the words "Katarungan para kay Mayor Guerra Zaragoza" (Justice for Mayor Guerra Zaragoza) in red letters.

During the necrological program, the mayor's grandson, Arbee Berbabe, 17, promised that he would study hard "so that he could bring back the family legacy."

Former Pangasinan Gov. Rafael Colet said he would always treasure his friendship with Zaragoza and his family because "it was a very enriching experience."

"The friendship showed me how people who are not related (by blood) could become very close, that they become family. Guerrero demonstrated to me the permanence of a true friendship," he added.

Zaragoza's cousin, Abraham Divina, said the mayor was often mistaken for being harsh because of his loud voice, "but he actually had a very soft heart."

Cops on alert

Armed policemen were strategically located around the town, while policemen in plainclothes mingled with the mourners during the funeral.

"We have been on alert for a week now, and augmented the police force manning the town last (Saturday) night," said Supt. Rayland Malenab, head of the provincial police intelligence group.

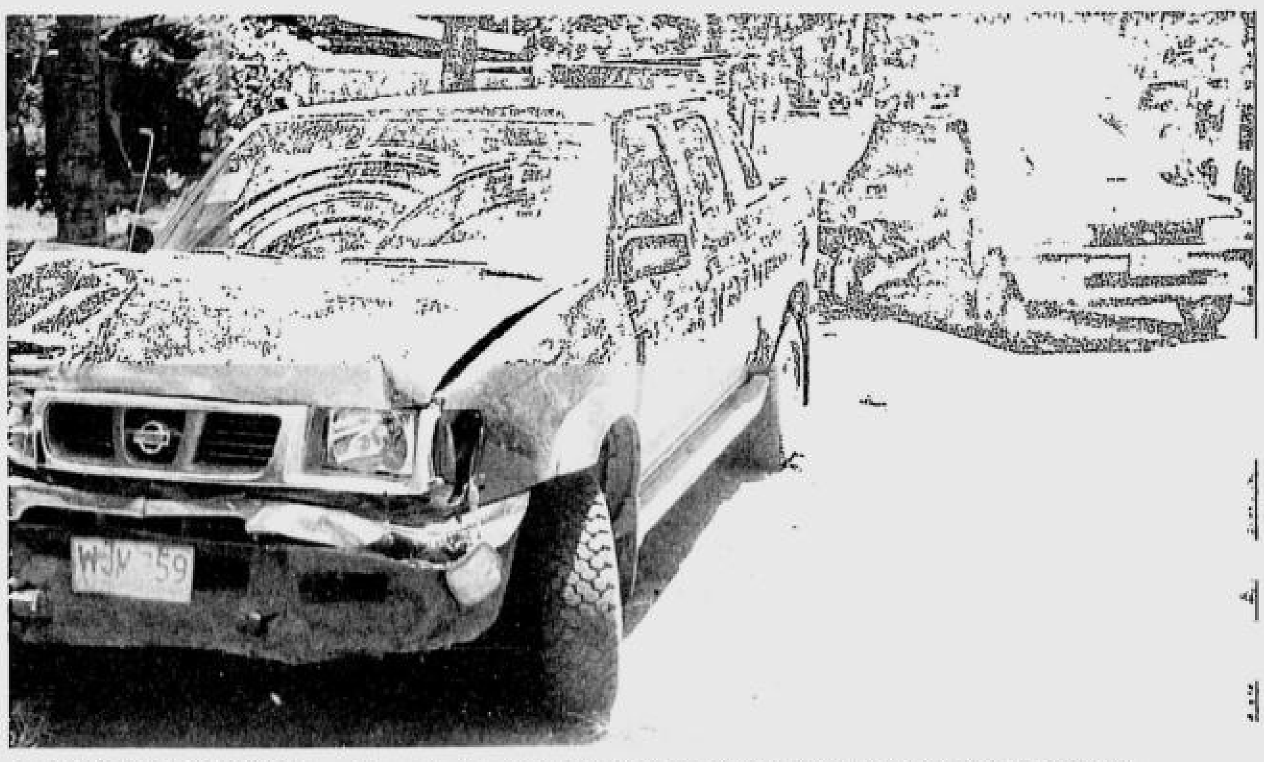
Initial reports pointed to the New People's Army as being behind Zaragoza's murder. But an investigation was still going on, Malenab said.

The police, however, said it was not NPA rebels but Zaragoza's supporters who fired at the municipal hall a day after the mayor was killed.

"We are not letting our guard down. After the funeral, we will continue investigating until we have solved the murder of the mayor," Malenab said.

Vice Mayor Manuel Trece Mapili, 46, took his oath of office as mayor on June 24. He will assume office on Monday.

With a report from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



ANOTHER TRAGEDY. While on its way to the Davao Doctors Hospital in Davao City, this pickup ridden by bodyguards of slain Mayor Joel Brillantes of Monkayo, Compostela Valley, collided with a Kia Pride on the Tulip Drive highway. The car's driver was killed.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

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Pope: Celibacy rule stays

From page A1

said removing the celibacy requirement wasn't the answer.

"A revision of the present discipline in this regard would not help to resolve the crisis of vocations to the priesthood being felt in many parts of Europe," the document said.

"A commitment to the service of the Gospel of hope also demands that the Church make every effort to propose celibacy in its full biblical, theological and spiritual richness."

Instead of opening up the priesthood to married men, the document said current priests should dedicate themselves to attracting more candidates by better explaining the priesthood to lay Catholics and encouraging families and children to consider religious vocations.

There has been a steep decline in the ratio of Catholics to priests worldwide over the past 20 years. In 1978, there were 1,797 Catholics for every priest. In 2001, the number was 2,619, according to Vatican statistics cited by Catholic News Service.

The wide-ranging document was issued Saturday as the final conclusions to a meeting, or synod, of European bishops held in 1999. John Paul held back on issuing the final document until now because he wanted the timing to be right in Europe, Vatican officials said Saturday.

In fact, one of the major thrusts of the document is a reaffirmation of Christianity's heritage in Europe, and an exhortation by the Pope that European leaders drafting the first EU constitution make reference to the role Christianity has played in shaping the continent.

'Nothing definite'

Earlier this month, EU negotiators finalized a draft of the constitution that made no reference to God or Christianity in the text, despite lobbying from the Vatican. Opponents argued such a reference could undermine the secular nature of the European Union.

Italy, which takes over the EU presidency starting Tuesday, has said it plans to reopen the debate over including the reference when governments begin a final review of the text in October.

"This is a constitution that does not yet exist," Cardinal Jan Schotte, head of the synod, told a press conference launching the document. "For me, nothing is definite."

Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Birmingham, a secretary of the synod, said leaving out a mention of Christianity was "unworthy" of the constitution's authors because "no presentation of Europe can be honest if it fails to recognize the part already played, and still played, by Christianity in the shaping of Europe."

The document touched on a host of other issues, including a call for Europe to be more welcoming to immigrants, for the Church in Europe to engage in a "profound and perceptive" dialogue with Islam and Judaism, and for the "full participation" of women in the life of the Church.

Schotte said that didn't mean women could at present be heads of Vatican congregations, since that would require they be ordained. The Vatican reserves the priesthood for men only.

Reports from AP and AFP

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Albay priest, parishioners weep over sex scandals

From page A1

BAUTISTA

related the lives of the two saints who had also led sinful lives. St. Peter had denied Jesus Christ thrice, Lobrigo said, while St. Paul was once a persecutor of the early Christian church.

No charges

Meanwhile, the accuser of Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. has assured the Vatican's representative in the country that she would not file charges against the bishop, regardless of the Vatican's decision on her complaint.

Fr. James Reuter, SJ, spokesperson of Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, said in a recent forum that the woman had completely entrusted her fate to the Vatican.

Reuter said Franco had spoken with Bacani almost every day in the past week and was also constantly in touch with Bacani's erstwhile secretary, known as Carolyn, in the Nuncio's attempt "to come to the truth."

The Vatican is expected to reach a decision on Carolyn's complaint by September, after the vacation period in Rome.

"Both of them will accept (the Vatican's decision) cheerfully, peacefully," said Reuter, who is also director of the Catholic Church's National Office of Mass Media.

For his part, Franco has asked the laity of Novaliches, whom he described as "very, very pro-Bacani," to stop issuing statements concerning the case because it would reflect on the woman.

Reuter disclosed that Franco had appealed to Bacani's supporters in the Novaliches diocese not to play the numbers game or try to win the case by a head count.

Reuter said Carolyn had given all the necessary statements for Franco's report to Rome.

Bacani is expected to be back in the country later this week, in time for the annual plenary assembly of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines on July 5 and 6 in Tagaytay City.

Controversial

In another recent forum, optional celibacy advocate Msgr. Nico Bautista dared his detractors to exile him to Europe and pay for all his expenses while there.

Bautista said he was willing to go away peacefully but said those who wanted him to walk should foot the bill.

He also said he was willing to undergo psychiatric tests, shouldered by those who insist he get one, to disprove nasty speculations about his mental state.

"This is what we call a demolition campaign, and I'm ready to pay the price ... (although) that is below the belt," Bautista told reporters at the Manila Pavilion.

The retired monsignor, who has received three admonitions from Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for his many controversial pronouncements, said his advocacy has also taken a toll on his health.

While he has repeatedly said that he had said enough about optional celibacy, Bautista continued to be all over the media with his thoughts on the sex scandals involving Bishops Bacani and Crisostomo Yalung since last year.

"I find it stressful. I have three tapings a day," Bautista said.

He vowed to shift his advocacy from celibacy to issues like clean air, anti-smoking, media responsibility and people empowerment.

Priests from the archdiocese of Manila have been, at best, amused by Bautista's crusade.

With a report from Blanche S. Rivera

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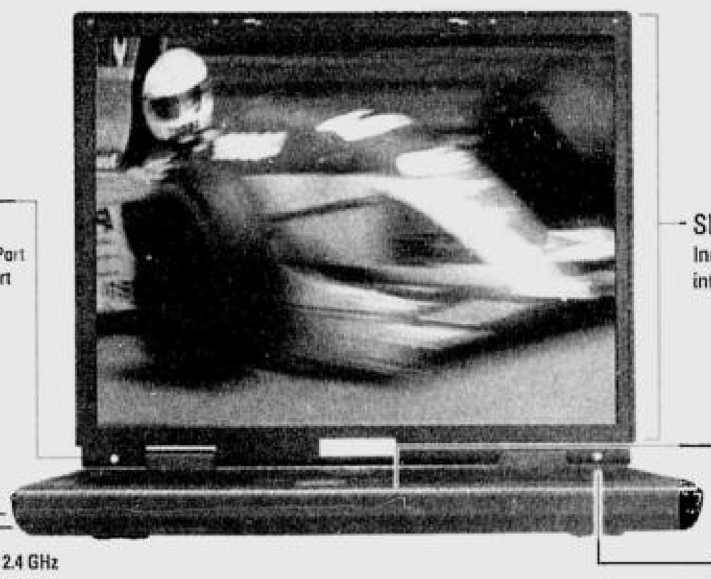

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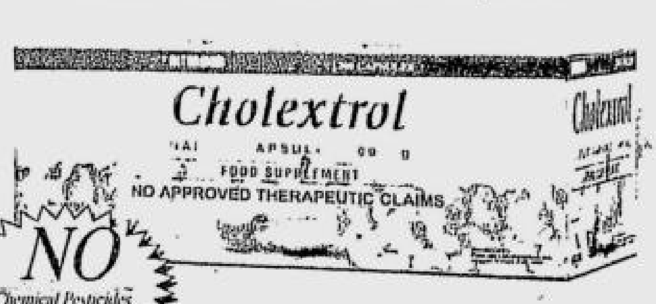

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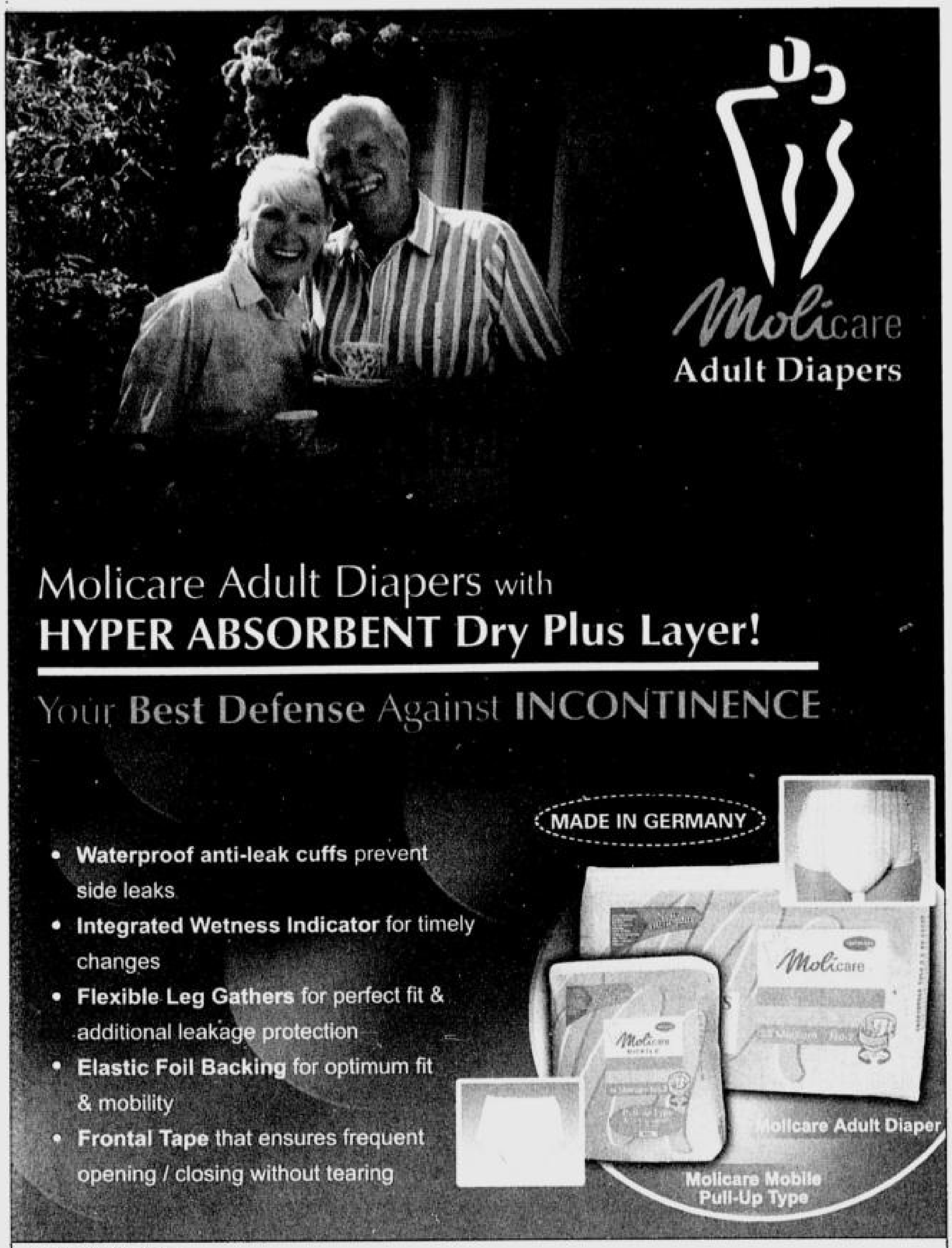
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CHILDREN participate in the street dancing as part of the celebration of the "Tabak Festival" in Tabaco City.
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

4th 'oragon' beaten up by wife in Tabaco City

From page A1

content with banishing misbehaving husbands from their beds.

Now they pick up arms and beat 'em black and blue.

Never mind that in this country, Bicol is the acknowledged cradle of the *oragon* (macho lover) culture, in which pedicab driver Danilo Braga was apparently raised.

Braga, 40, was rushed to the Ziga Memorial and District Hospital, sporting fresh cuts, bruises, scratches and welts inflicted by his wife Evelyn who, he told police, had attacked him with fists and fingernails, and an iron pipe. It was not the first time it happened, he said.

Emergency room nurse Jocelyn Codorniz could not help noting that Braga was the fourth "battered husband" she had attended to in recent months.

His wife had hogtied him as well, Braga said, and then resumed hitting him until he fainted inside their home in Barangay Quinale at the height of fiesta celebrations on Tuesday.

Actually, he could have passed out as much from drunkenness as from distress. Codorniz recalled that all the battered husbands had reeked of alcohol, and never stopped begging their wives for forgiveness while being treated.

Braga said his wife was enraged because he had come home drunk and penniless. The village *tanod* (guard) who brought him to the hospital had a more complete story.

The tanod said Braga had left early in the morning of June 24, feast day of the city's patron saint San Juan Bautista. But instead of plying his pedicab route as he told Evelyn he would, he joined a neighborhood drinking spree.

"When he went back home in the afternoon," the tanod said, "his family had not eaten lunch."

Evelyn would not be stopped once she started beating him up, Danilo told police investigators.

"I pleaded with her, but did not fight back because I'm a man and she is a woman. Only the tanod managed to pacify her."

In any case, he said, he was inclined to sue his wife for maltreatment.

Dr. Ma. Gina Vera, the attending physician, suggested that Danilo stay in the hospital for a while, since Evelyn had done a pretty good job of expressing her displeasure.

He refused. What would his *oragon* pals say?

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Cops arrest 2 suspects in trader's kidnap, slay

By Tarra Quismundo

POLICE have arrested two of three suspects in the abduction and killing of a Chinese businessman last Wednesday.

One of the suspects, Gregorio Lim, was arrested yesterday while he was visiting his daughter at the Bernardino Hospital in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Earlier, suspect Chatty Barde was arrested on Kamagong Street in Valenzuela City. The other suspect, Abalardo Barde, is still at large.

Police said the three suspects barged into the house of businessman Lin de Ly, 38, in Valenzuela City last Wednesday night.

The suspects first took more than P1 million in cash, jewelry, cell phones, and bank checks at the businessman's house, then took him and his wife, Li Chung Li, to Nueva Ecija.

Ly was found dead the next day on a road beside a ricefield in Barangay Bagong Silang in Talavera town. His head was wrapped in cloth and masking tape, and his hands and feet tied with a telephone cord.

Police said the businessman died from several head injuries, which could have been inflicted with the alligator jack found beside his body.

His wife suffered several wounds and was struggling to breathe when she was found by barangay officials. She lived to tell the story to the police.

Li Chung Li is Lim's aunt. She identified Lim as one of the three suspects.

Lim admitted to police that he was involved in the robbery, but denied hurting his aunt and uncle. He told police the Bardes had killed his uncle and wounded his aunt.

The car used by the suspects, a dark green Nissan Cefiro (WCS-505), was later found abandoned near the San Jose City public market in Nueva Ecija.

Mayors want Bilibid exclusively for Metro inmates

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

AFTER their controversial takeover of traffic management, Metro Manila mayors are now setting their eyes on the National Bilibid Prisons.

The mayors are now proposing to make the NBP exclusive to inmates from Metro Manila.

Metro Manila mayors' league spokesperson Peewee Trinidad told the INQUIRER yesterday that the mayors had "approved in principle" to collectively propose the plan to President Arroyo.

Bureau of Corrections director Dionisio Santiago described the mayors' proposal as "very laudable, but (requiring) a lot of money."

"It is easy to propose that but hard to implement," he said.

Instead of concentrating inmates from all over the country at the NBP, the mayors want regional jails built.

Trinidad said building regional jails would benefit the inmates' relatives, some of whom have to travel from the provinces to visit jailed relatives.

Because of the distance, some inmates at the NBP have not had any visitors for years.

Santiago said if the proposal for building regional jails is approved, it would make their task of handling the over 26,000 inmates at the NBP easier.

He added that the mayors should solve the congestion of their respective city and municipal jails first.

OFW raps hospital for slow action

'We lack equipment,' says head nurse

AN OVERSEAS Filipino worker (OFW) suffering from a serious kidney illness waited in a government-accredited hospital for 32 hours before he could be transferred to another hospital to get the needed treatment.

However, Umbra Tatak Sapi, who is suffering from an end-stage renal disease, said he still had to stay longer at the South Superhighway Medical Center (SSMC) in Bicutan because he had to settle his account.

He was able to transfer to another hospital only yesterday after he agreed to leave behind his passport.

Sapi, 41, arrived in the country on Wednesday after he was medically repatriated from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he had worked for 14 years.

Needed a transplant

The OFW, a native of Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao, needed a kidney transplant but such an operation was not allowed in the Islamic state.

Sapi was immediately admitted at the SSMC, which has been accredited by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to handle the cases of medically repatriated OFWs.

Cynthia Lamban, chief of OWWA's workers welfare division, said the SSMC was accredited "primarily because of its proximity to the Naia."

But Sapi complained that he practically did not get medical attention except blood and urine tests, daily blood pressure reading, three doses of medicine and his board and lodging.

Head nurse Tina Hernandez told the INQUIRER that the hospital could not treat Sapi's case because it lacked the equipment.

Reached by Sapi's family, Dr. Dingdong Biruar, a medical internist at the National Kidney Transplant Institute, said he would attend to the case of the OFW as soon as he returned to Manila from Cotabato City.

On Friday afternoon, Sapi related, Dr. Celestino Dalisay, an internist at the SSMC, handed him a referral note allowing him to seek medical attention in a "hospital of his choice."

"[Dalisay] told me that I could now go out anytime," Sapi said.

According to him, however, he was not allowed to leave despite the valid OWWA-issued Philhealth pre-medical need certification and documents.

Sapi reportedly had to leave his passport before he could be allowed to leave.

"*Mahirap kasi pag sa* OWWA (It's difficult when bills are charged to OWWA)," Hernandez said.

This prompted OWWA Administrator Virgilio Angelo to speak over Radio Veritas about canceling the hospital's accreditation with OWWA.

But SSMC assistant administrator Socorro Hidalgo denied that the hospital refused to treat Sapi. She said he was asked to "transfer to a hospital of his choice" because they did not have a dialysis machine.

Transfer recommended

Hospital cashier Gloria Ramos said doctors had recommended the transfer of Sapi when he was brought to the SSMC on Wednesday. But the National Kidney Transplant Institute could not accommodate him at that time.

Sapi was given the option to stay, go home or transfer to another hospital and the OFW chose to stay, Ramos said.

The cashier said Sapi had to stay from Friday to Sunday because his relatives were able to finish arranging his transfer only yesterday.

Ramos said getting an OFW's passport was a "standard operating procedure" at OWWA-accredited hospitals.

Ramos said Sapi's account amounted to P4, 204. *Nash Maulana and Edson Tandoc Jr.*

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'Where's money?'

MONEY can solve the problems in running the National Bilibid Prisons, according to Bureau of Corrections director Dionisio Santiago. "We need a lot of help. These problems have been happening. I just exposed them because I want them solved," Santiago said yesterday. The NBP is currently embroiled in a drug-related controversy, and some senators and congressmen have expressed alarm over the issue. But Santiago yesterday appealed to the lawmakers to help the BOC and allocate more funds for it. He also invited the lawmakers to visit the national penitentiary. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Liquor ban lifted

MALABON City Barangay Chair Eduardo Nolasco on Friday lifted the unofficial ban he had imposed on the sale of a popular gin brand after the deaths last month of eight men who drank poison-laced liquor. Nolasco, chair of Barangay Potrero, said there should be no cause for concern over the safety of the liquor, adding that it was the poison and not the product that killed the victims. Experts from the Northern Police District Office crime laboratory earlier announced that the victims could have been killed by methanol or methyl alcohol found in the gin that they had drunk. Nolasco said no other incidents of gin-poisoning had been reported. *Tina Santos*

Gotesco mall raided

A TEAM from the Videogram Regulatory Board and the Caloocan City police raided on Friday the Gotesco Grand Central North Mall on Rizal Avenue in Caloocan City and seized about 5,000 pirated VCDs and CDs. The police said the haul was worth about P150,000. The VRB has been conducting raids on commercial centers all over the country since last year to stop the rampant video piracy. *Tarra Quismundo*

Trader slain

BUSINESSMAN Johnny Go, 71, was killed in a robbery at his hardware store in Quezon City late Saturday afternoon. The police said Go was unconscious when he was found by his daughter, Lily Go Ong, inside Unison Hardware. He was found with his hands tied with an electrical cord and his mouth gagged. He was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center. Cash of a still undetermined amount was missing from the store. Police said the robbery could have been an inside job. *Amy Remo*

Killed over F4

A DRUNKEN argument over the television Chinese soap "Meteor Garden" resulted in the death of Romeo Escultero, last Saturday in Quezon City. Police said the victim was found with three stab wounds in the body inside his house by his sister-in-law, Elena Li. Police identified the suspect as Benjamin Mais, who relatives said they had seen drinking liquor with Escultero then having a heated argument with the victim over their favorite television shows, one of which was Meteor Garden that starred the popular Taiwanese boy band F4. Relatives rushed Escultero to the East Avenue Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival. Police said Mais remained at large. *Amy Remo*

2 vehicles stolen

ROWENA Gallego lost her tricycle while it was parked in front of her driver's house in Caloocan City on Saturday night. The night before, a white Toyota Revo, owned by Chading Chua, 52, of Valenzuela City, was stolen while it was parked in front of a friend's house on B. Serrano Street. Police are still looking for the vehicles. *Tarra Quismundo*

Dead at the gate

NOBODY could tell how and why an elderly woman ended up dead at a subdivision's gate in Navotas. The body of the 65-year-old, identified only as Mareng Morallos, reportedly still single, was bloodied when found by her neighbor on a concrete pavement at the gate of 16 Rosas corner Dama de Noche Street, Merville Subdivision, Tanza, Navotas. Reports said the victim was hit on the head with a hard object. *Tarra Quismundo*

Fun at The Columns

PROPERTY specialists handling sales of residential condominium units at The Columns, Ayala Avenue, recently gathered for a sports and fun day at Dencio's in Fort Bonifacio. New property specialists were welcomed by officials of Community Innovations Inc., the Ayala Land subsidiary offering the three-tower condominium complex.

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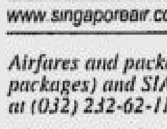

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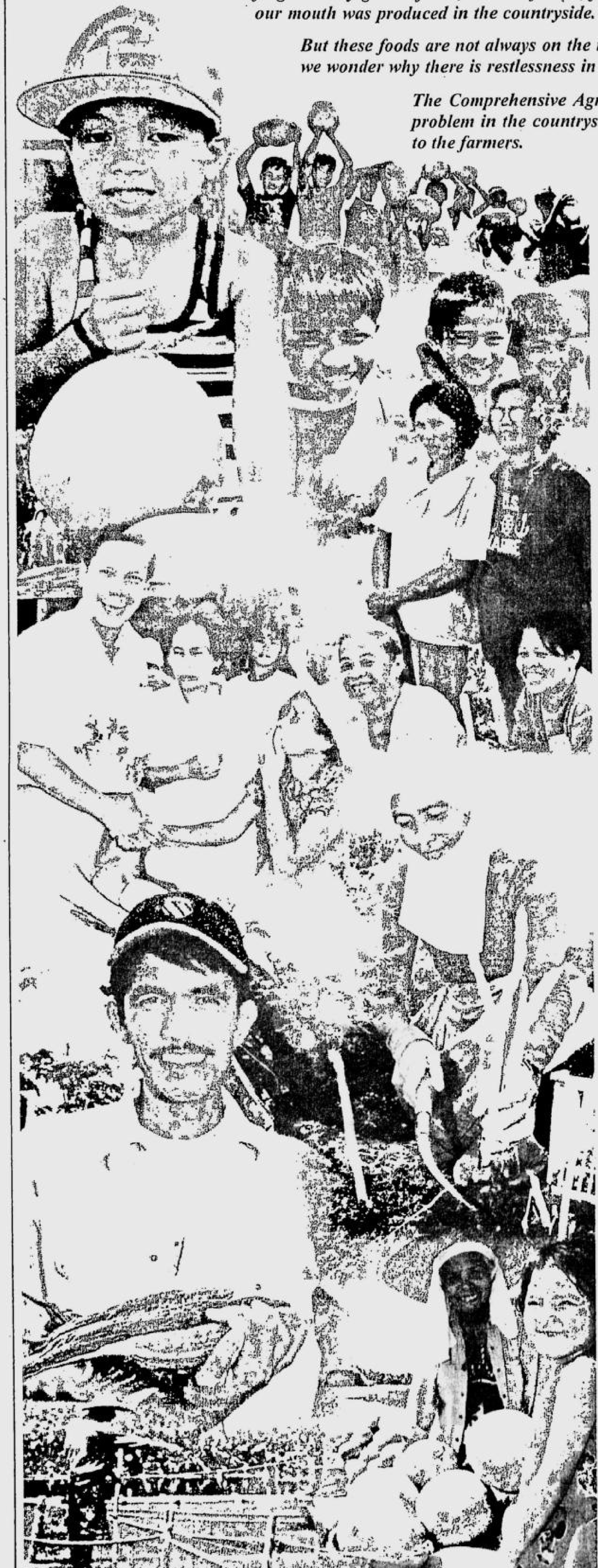
CARP AT 15:
TODO ANDAR

Rice, meat, and vegetables. Fish and fruits. When they're on the table there is peace of mind. But we often forget: Every grain of rice, strand of meat, fiber of vegetable, pinch of fish and slice of fruit that we put in our mouth was produced in the countryside. Obviously, the city relies so much on the countryside for food.

But these foods are not always on the rural household's table. So, while we in the city enjoy our food, we wonder why there is restlessness in the countryside.

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) has been addressing this problem in the countryside through land distribution and delivery of support services to the farmers.



CARP HAS reached 15 years. Contrary to expectations by some, it did not wane, but has instead gathered momentum.

All those years, CARP passed through tough challenges –cynicism by the public, opposition of landlords, limited budget, legions of agrarian cases, etc. But CARP weathered all this because the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR); in spite of scant resources, persevered to pursue its mandate of distributing lands to promote equity.

All the past four administrations, from President Aquino to President Arroyo, recognized and supported CARP as a strategic program to fight poverty and push rural development.

About 3.1 million hectares still remain to be distributed under CARP. Of this, over 1 million hectares are agricultural lands to be distributed by DAR. The rest are public lands to be distributed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Under the Arroyo administration and the leadership of Secretary Roberto M. Pagdanganan, DAR is on TODO ANDAR mode to fast track land distribution and delivery of support services to the farmer-beneficiaries.

Todo ANDAR for land transfer

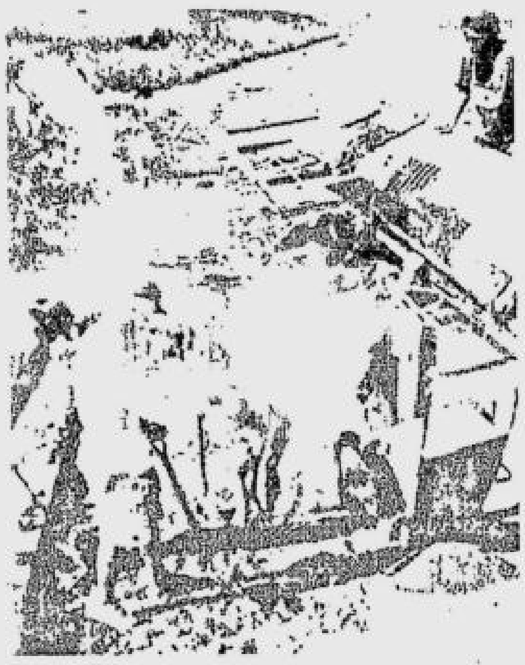
Overall, from 1987 to present, DAR had distributed more than 3.3 million hectares to about 1.9 million ARBs, while the DENR had distributed more than 2 million hectares to some 1 million farmers.

Land transfer is a major focus of DAR. In 2002, DAR distributed 111,772 hectares to 75,560 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), over 11 percent of the target of 100,000 hectares set by President Arroyo during her state-of-the-nation address.

From January to March 2003, DAR distributed 11,095 hectares, higher than the 10,307 hectares and 10,033 hectares distributed during the same period in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

DAR is confident that it can meet its target of over 100,000 hectares this year, despite the P2.3 billion cut by Congress in its proposed budget.

FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Todo ANDAR for farm support services

It is not enough to distribute land. DAR must ensure that the distributed lands would be truly productive. It must, therefore, deliver support services – rural infrastructure, post-harvest facilities, technical assistance, etc. – to the ARBs.

DAR is TODO ANDAR in mobilizing resources from foreign donors to finance the support services component of CARP. Among the foreign donors that have been supporting CARP are the Governments of Japan, The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy, and Australia, and institutions like Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

As of 2002, foreign donors had poured in PhP40.35 billion on 39 projects in 779 agrarian reform communities (ARCs). At present, DAR has 17 ongoing foreign-assisted projects worth PhP34 billion.

Through foreign assistance, DAR had completed 9 irrigation facilities servicing 2,593 hectares, 55 farm-to-market roads with a total length of 187 kilometers, 12 farm-to-market bridges with total length of 1,216 linear meters, and 2 post-harvest faci- lities with 7 units. These are aside from various technical assistance such as new technology, credit programs, and training of farmers.

Ongoing projects include 14 irrigation facilities that would service 4,020 hectares, 32 farm-to-market roads with a total length of 173 kilometers, 1 farm-to-market bridge 15 linear meters long, and 2 post-harvest facilities with two units each.

All this is focused on boosting farm productivity, enhancing trade, and increasing the income of rural households.

Todo ANDAR for delivery ng agrarian justice

In 2002 alone, DAR resolved 34,182 legal cases, most of which (22,624) are about CARP implementation. It is 11 percent higher than the target of 30,793.

Meanwhile, the DAR Adjudication Board (DARAB) handled 28,935 cases in 2002 and solved 15,919 cases, or 74 percent of the target 21,489 cases.

This year, it has resolved 10,959 cases related to CARP implementation – such as exemption, conversion, and retention rights. DARAB had also resolved 4,218 cases related to land valuation, ejection, collection and fixing of rentals, and cancellation of emancipation patents (EPs) or certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs).

To hasten the resolution of cases and clear the backlogs, DAR is undertaking three things: (i) hiring of more legal officers to strengthen the adjudication boards, (ii) implementing a quota system to speed up adjudication work, and (iii) paralegal training of ARBs.

Foreign-Assisted Projects Office

ARSP

DAR Swedesurvey Project

SWEDESURVEY

Cadastral Support to CARP

BIARSP

JAPAN

Official Development Assistance

Special Programs of DAR

- *Gulayan ng Magsasakang Agraryo (GMA)*
  – It aims to improve the economic and social conditions of farmers through scientific, environment friendly and highly productive vegetable farming.
- *Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Scholarship Program*
  – It is an educational assistance to deserving and qualified children of ARBs, in cooperation with the state universities and colleges. This program draws inspiration from President "Cong Dadong" Macapagal, son of poor farmers, who rosefrom poverty to become the top official of his land.
- *KALAHI Agrarian Reform Zones*
  – These are contiguous ARCs where support services for ARBs will be given more focus. They are envisioned to become hubs of agro-industrial development as a result of convergence efforts of DAR, other government line agencies, local government units, the civil society, and donor countries.

Three-way Test

Sec. Pagdanganan set a three-way test for its employees to ensure that all the department's efforts to promote CARP are in accordance with social and ethical standards and beneficial to all:

First, will it increase the income and improve the quality of life of farmer-beneficiaries?

Second, is it fair or just to the landowners? Will they be justly compensated so that they may become, so to speak, captains of industry?

Third, will it lead to fast delivery of agrarian justice?

Todo ANDAR for farm productivity

The momentum gained by CARP will be enhanced to speed up its implementation and highlight achievements. Playing a key role here is the Kalahi Agrarian Reform Zone being pushed by Secretary Pagdanganan.

Kalahi stands for Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan. In Kalahi ARZone, the ARCs, which are clusters of barangays where land distribution had been completed, will be expanded to include more barangays among beneficiaries of support services. Thus, the base for anti-poverty war will expand, hastening the creation of a critical mass to push rural development.

Kalahi will strengthen cooperativism. Secretary Pagdanganan believes that this is the missing ingredient in the success of the Filipino farmer. Agrarian reform and cooperativism will be the twin pillars of rural development.

In all this, the key link is CARP. Take care of the farm communities, and the farm communities will take care of the entire nation.

TODO AnDAR! Sa Kaunlaran!

DAR

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AGRARIAN REFORM

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

NBI, CIDG in word war over 2 drug suspects

CHEERING SQUAD
Members of the University of Makati cheering squad do a stunt dance during yesterday's observance of the 2003 Olympic Day in Manila in front of the Rajah Sulayman Park. ERIK ARAZAS

By Christian Esguerra and Margaux Ortiz

TWO 11-YEAR-OLD girls have sparked a word war between the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The CIDG has accused the NBI of snatching the two girls whom they earlier arrested for alleged drug pushing in Cainta, Rizal.

Subsequently, several NBI agents involved in the operation had been charged with obstruction of justice, the CIDG has announced.

In a press statement, CIDG chief Eduardo Matillano described the operation as "gimmickry in order to spring out minor drug pushers" from its custody.

But a fuming Edmund Arugay, NBI director for Metro Manila, yesterday said Matillano got all his details wrong.

"The press release was based on the report of his (Matillano's) agent," Arugay told the INQUIRER. "The CIDG management should have first found out the real story before coming out with it."

He said NBI agents, led by Roland Argabioso, took the girls from the CIDG office in Rizal on June 25 because police had detained them for four days without filing any charges against them.

In its statement, the CIDG claimed that the girls were arrested on June 24 for delivering five grams of shabu worth P6,000 to a poseur buyer negotiating with alleged pusher Nancy Ramos, 29, in a Cainta motel.

But Arugay contested this by saying the girls were "arbitrarily" arrested on June 21 inside a market in Marikina City while these were buying school supplies.

"*Nagkataon lang po na katabi namin sa palengke si* Nancy Ramos. *Kapitbahay namin siya* (It just happened that we were standing next to our neighbor Ramos)," one of the girls told the INQUIRER.

The girls said that they were detained at the CIDG office for four days, and were made to stay and sleep in the kitchen.

"If they made the arrest in good faith, the CIDG agents should have looked for the girls' parents first or informed the Department of Social Welfare and Development because the case involved minors," Argabioso said.

The girls' parents later complained to the NBI that one Edgar Ty, a CIDG civilian operative in Cainta, had allegedly been asking for P150,000 in exchange for the girls' release, Arugay said.

The amount was supposedly reduced to P30,000.

On June 24, Arugay said his men led by Argabioso set up an entrapment operation against Ty but it was aborted after the alleged pay-off was set inside the CIDG office in Karangalan Village, Cainta.

"We didn't want to embarrass them right in their office so my men admitted to the CIDG desk officer that they were out to arrest Ty for extortion," the NBI official said.

"We also asked them to release the girls to their parents because they were being detained illegally."

Arugay said the CIDG heeded the request but announced to the media last Friday that the NBI had intervened in its anti-drug operation.

"If they just want to look handsome before the media," he said, "they shouldn't do it at our expense."

Arugay said charges of illegal detention and extortion will be filed today against Ty and several other CIDG operatives in Rizal.

Ebdane acts to put order in drug drive

ONLY members of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AID-SOTF) of the Philippine National Police are authorized to operate against illegal drug groups.

PNP Chief Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. disclosed the directive in a press bulletin released yesterday to ensure a "seamless coordination" in the current drug campaign.

Ebdane said the AID-SOTF, which is under Chief Police Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, will provide support to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), the lead agency in the current drug drive.

Ebdane directed all other PNP units to desist from "pro-active anti-illegal drug operations."

Ebdane issued the directive to address the problems and complaints of sectors on potential planting of evidence as well as to avoid any unnecessary mix-up in operations on the ground.

The same directive also clarified that should illegal drugs be confiscated or suspected drug traffickers, pushers, or users be arrested in the course of any police operation, the same should be immediately turned over to AID-SOTF at its appropriate level.

This developed after President Macapagal-Arroyo called a command conference in Malacañang to discuss the government's strategy against drug syndicates.

During the meeting, the President emphasized the anti-drug drive should be within the institutional framework set by the Dangerous Drugs Act.

Later, Malacañang officials announced the creation of an "anti-drug junta" composed of Interior Secretary Jose Lina, PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido and Aglipay.

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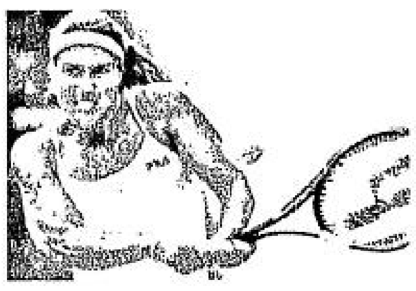

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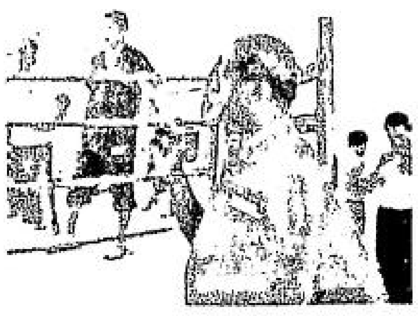

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Talk N Text gains finals

Downs Alaska Aces in rubber match

By June Navarro

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
5 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska (for third place)
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk N Text (Game 1, Finals)

TALK N Text captured its first-ever All-Filipino title slot last night after the Phone Pals outsteadied the Alaska Aces, 92-88, in overtime in Game 5 of their semifinal showdown at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Phone Pals struggled three-fourths of the way until Asi Taulava, Mark Telan and rookie Jimmy Alapag combined to stop the Aces and forge a best-of-seven championship series with the Coca-Cola Tigers on Wednesday.

Alapag scored eight straight points in the final quarter, including two triples, as the Phone Pals wiped out a 67-57 Alaska lead at the end of the third quarter, while Taulava put in two free throws to send the match into overtime, 83-all.

The 5-foot-8 Fil-Am rookie then joined hands with Telan and Bong Ravena in the extra period even as the Aces blacked out in the dying seconds of play.

Mike Cortez, Don Allado and John Arigo flubbed successive putbacks with 18 seconds left, denying the Aces the chance to send the roller-coaster match into another overtime and giving the Phone Pals just a third crack at the championship since joining the league in 1996.

Taulava, who shot 12 points in the third quarter, finished with 27 points while Alapag added 21 for Talk N Text, one of two franchises still to capture a conference championship.

In winning the rubber match, the Phone Pals underscored their luck in odd-numbered games as they also prevailed in Games 1 and 3.

The Aces, who were seeking a third Finals stint in four conferences, missed a chance of setting up a championship rematch with the Tigers, who beat them for the plum in the same conference last season.

Tension flared up at the start of the first half as Alaska's Ali Peek figured in a shoving match with Taulava and Telan.

Peek's agressiveness typified the intensity of the Aces, who held the Phone Pals scoreless for more than seven minutes as they surged ahead to a 46-37 lead entering the halftime break.

Don Allado, EJ Feihl, John Arigo, Don Camaso and Peek conspired in a blinding 12-0 run while forcing the Phone Pals to commit a number of turnovers that powered Alaska to a 46-37 lead at halftime.

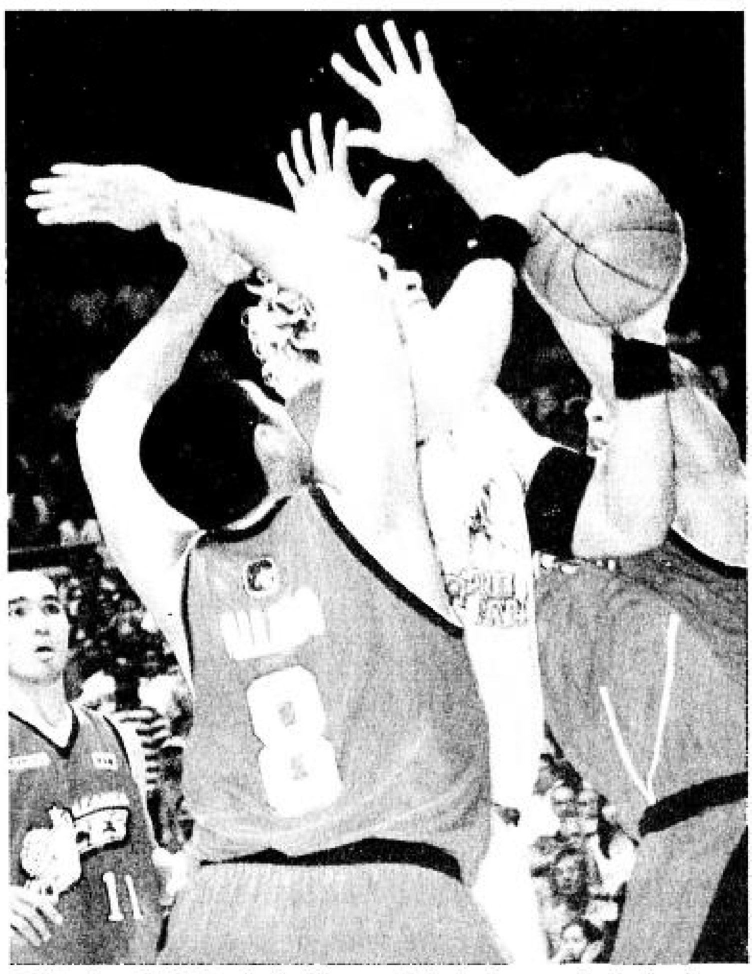
In the first half alone, the Phone Pals committed 13 turnovers, just an error short of their average 14.2 turnovers per game.

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 92—Taulava 27, Alapag 21, Carey 16, Telan 12, Ravena 7, Fran 6, Belano 3, Villa 0, Manalo 0.

ALASKA 88—Arigo 18, Cortez 16, Allado 16, Peek 14, Cablay 10, Feihl 8, Camaso 4, Duat 2.

Quarters: 29-25, 37-46, 57-67, 83-83 (regulation), 92-88.


AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

ASI Taulava finds the shaded lane crowded as he attacks the basket.

USBL team seeks Invitationals slot

A SELECTION of stars 6-foot-5 and below from the United States Basketball League (USBL) to be coached by former NBA star Darryl "Chocolate Thunder" Dawkins wants to play in the PBA Invitationals next month.

"I think it will be a huge attraction for Filipino fans," said Sam Unera, a longtime PBA agent in the US.

Unera has requested the Philippine Basketball Association to allow the participation of the American selection approximating the size of the Asian roster to level the playing field in the Invitational.

Unera is manager of the USBL champion team the Pennsylvania Valley Dawgs, who is coached by Dawkins, noted for his backboard-breaking slams during his NBA days.

"Dawkins is definitely excited to have his team play in the Philippines. He knows a lot about the PBA," Unera said.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon 2003, Week 1 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r - 5:30 p.m.); Day 7, Round of 16; 7 p.m.; Star Sports - Relive the memorable moments from the first week and witness as the final 16 go all out to advance further.

GOLF: Best of PGA Golf; 11:30 a.m.; ESPN - Take a look back at some of the most memorable sudden - death playoffs.

US Senior Open; 12 noon (r - 4 p.m.); ESPN - Catch a replay of the final round from Ohio.

PGA Fedex St. Jude Classic; 2:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports - Find out who cashes in the big check as the final 18 holes are played out.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Allianz Grand Prix of Europe; 11 a.m. (r); Star Sports - Rewind and get another glimpse of the past weekend's race from Germany.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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*2. To join the promo, Customer should stick the Darlington sticker on the rear of the vehicles (e.g. jeepney, tricycle, bus, car, scooter, etc.) or post/ expose visibly on any part outside their house (e.g. gate, fence, outside wall, etc.). Then write his/ her name, address, tel. no. and affix signature on the raffle stub at the back of the sticker, enclose in a white legal size envelope and mail to: STICK ON CRAZE! WIN A CASH! c/o Ad Options 3/F Doña Guadalupe Bldg., 7462 Bagtikan St., San Antonio Village, Makati City or just drop the raffle stub/s at designated dropboxes located near the display rack at any Darlington outlet.

3. There will be six (6) Monthly draws to be held every last Friday of the month starting May 30, 2003 to October 31, 2003. The drawing of which is through tambiolo to be held at Ad Options at 2:00 PM to be supervised by a duly-authorized DTI representative, with representatives from Darlington and Ad Options as well.

4. The monthly winners will be published on Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin and People's Journal. Winners will be notified through registered mail.

5. There will be twenty (20) winners of P1,000 in each Monthly draw.

6. A customer can only win once per draw.

7. Non-winning entries will be included in all succeeding draws.

8. Only entries received until every last Thursday of the month from May 29-Oct. 30, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. qualify for the draw. Entries received beyond this deadline will be included in the succeeding draws.

9. In claiming prizes, winners have to present the following:

a. Any valid ID (Driver's license, Company/ Student ID, Passport, Voter's ID, SSS/ GSIS ID).
b. The other half of the raffle stub with the matching winning raffle number
c. P300.00 worth of Darlington socks and stockings (accumulated or single receipt dated within the promo period, March 15-October 30, 2003)
d. The unit/ picture where the sticker is fixed.
e. Copy of the registered mail.

Redemption of prizes for Metro Manila winners will be at Ad Options, 3/F Doña Guadalupe Bldg., 7462 Bagtikan St., San Antonio Village, Makati City. Redemption of prizes for Provincial winners will be through bank arrangement or through courier.

10. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Darlington with prior DTI-approval.

11. Employees of Darlington, its ad agency, promo persons, merchandisers and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

12. Promo period is from March 15, 2003 to October 30, 2003.

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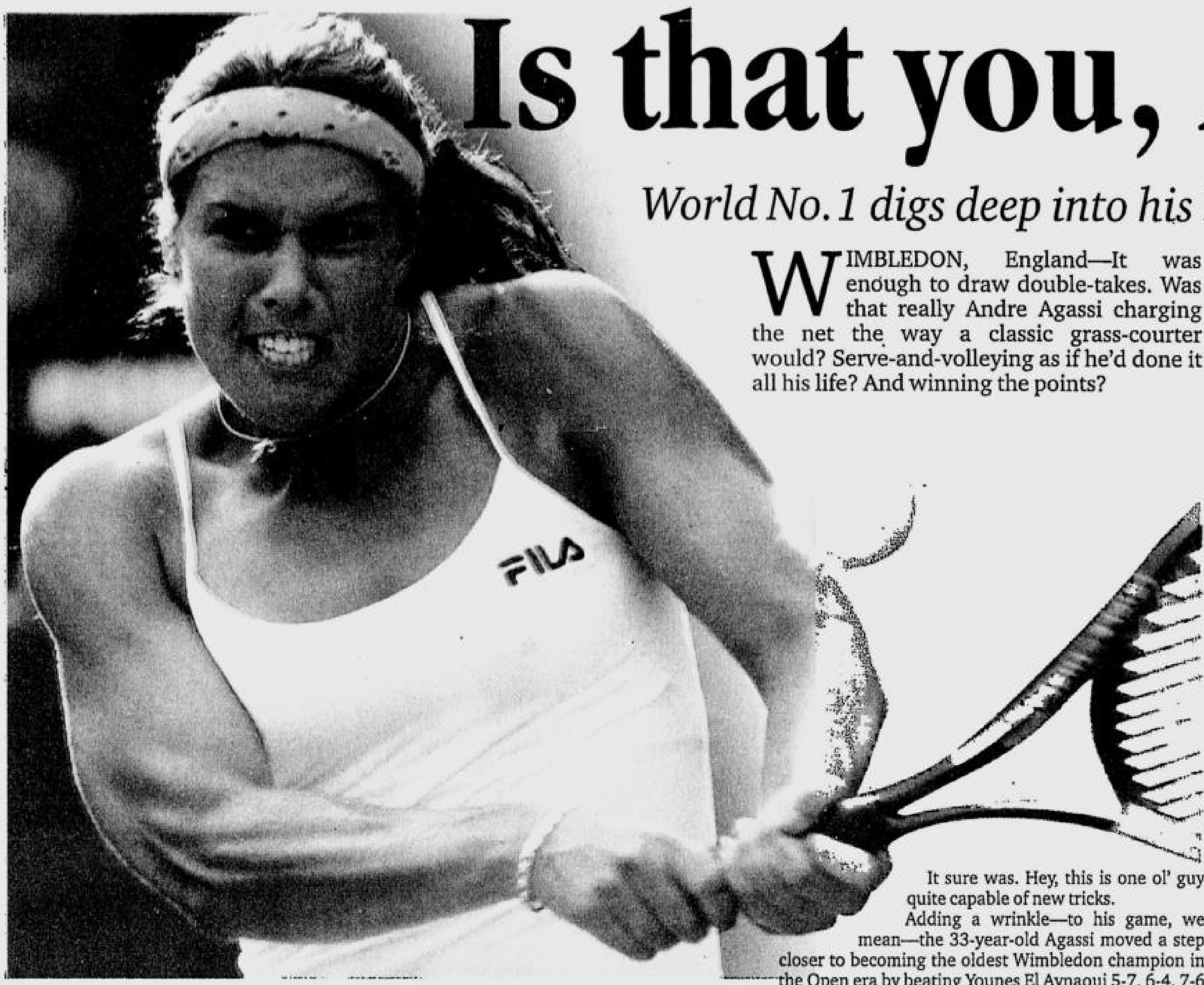
JENNIFER Capriati returns to Japan's Akiko Morigami in their third round match. AP

WIMBLEDON, England—It was enough to draw double-takes. Was that really Andre Agassi charging the net the way a classic grass-courter would? Serve-and-volleying as if he'd done it all his life? And winning the points?

It sure was. Hey, this is one ol' guy quite capable of new tricks.

Adding a wrinkle—to his game, we mean—the 33-year-old Agassi moved a step closer to becoming the oldest Wimbledon champion in the Open era by beating Younes El Aynaoui 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4) Saturday to reach the fourth round.

Agassi won the point all 10 times he came in behind his serve, and he was 27-for-30 overall at the net.

"I don't know what got into me out there," Agassi said. "I probably won't do that again until about 2010."

The first of his eight Grand Slam titles came at the All England Club in 1992, and he could break the Wimbledon record for biggest gap between championships (Bill Tilden won the tournament in 1921 and 1930).

First things first, though.

Agassi's opponent in the round of 16 will be Mark Philippoussis, a three-time quarterfinalist. The 6-foot-4 (1.93 meter) Philippoussis compiled 33 aces in beating Radek Stepanek 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4, 7-6 (6).

Also into the fourth round: No. 10 Tim Henman, 2002 finalist David Nalbandian; French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero; and No. 13 Sebastien Grosjean. Third-seed Ferrero beat Sargis Sargsian of Armenia, 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; sixth seed Nalbandian of Argentina outlasted Karol Kucera of Slovakia, 6-4, 5-7, 6-7(1), 6-4, 6-2; Henman routed Robin Soderling of Sweden, 6-3, 6-1, 6-4; No.13 Grosjean downed Wesley Moodie of South Africa, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-4, 6-4.

Two-time major champion Mary Pierce reached Wimbledon's fourth round for the first time since 1999 by topping No. 23 Lisa Raymond 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Also advancing were defending champion Serena Williams, French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne and Jennifer Capriati. Maria Sharapova knocked off No. 11 Jelena Dokic 6-4, 6-4 to become the fourth wild-card entry ever in the fourth round.

Third seed Henin-Hardenne of Belgium defeated Alicia Molik of Australia, 6-4, 6-4; Capriati beat Akiko Morigami, 6-4, 6-4; No.15 Dementieva whipped Aniko Kapros of Hungary, 6-3, 6-1; 10th seed Myskina routed Conchita Martinez, 6-3, 6-3; Serena Williams topped compatriot Laura Granville, 6-3, 6-1; and Kuznetsova beat Emilie Loit of France, 6-1, 6-2. *AP*

Hartman, Pagdanganan big winners

HARTMAN carded a net 207.8 and Governor Pagdanganan scored 221.8 Friday to emerge the biggest winners in the second First Gentleman's Cup at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Ivan Te scored a 68, Danilo Perez supported him with 68.2 and Philip Te contributed a 71 to lead Hartman to the overall West Course team championship.

Rolly Mangulabnan shot 69, Jess Cantos carded 75.8 and Ernie Luis Ortiz made 77 to power Governor Pagdanganan to the overall East Course team championship.

Waterfront 2 scored 207.4 on Angel Umali's 67.6, the 68.6 of Akihisa Nishin and Willy Maldia's 71.2 to finish second behind Hartman.

Lucio Yan made 224 to finish second in the East Course division.

Mangulabnan became the event's double winner when his 69 gave him the East course individual overall crown. Pete de la Cruz carded a net 70.4 to capture second place.

Tsuchiya Hiro netted 66.6 to emerge the West Course individual champion.

A total of 428 players comprising 107 teams competed in the one-day event launched by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo last year to raise funds for his various charitable projects.

Among the beneficiaries are soldiers and policemen under the Alay Sa Kawal program and wards of the Haven, a center set up by Congressional Spouses Foundation president Gina de Venecia that assists abused women.

Diaz, Lobaton head Roxas Milo qualifiers

ROXAS CITY—Gloria Diaz posted her fifth victory in as many races and Adonis Lobaton kept his crown yesterday in the regional eliminations of the 27th National Milo Marathon here.

The 27-year-old Diaz clocked 1 hour 22 minutes and 4 seconds in ruling the women's division of the 20-km event to book a ticket to the National Finals in Metro Manila on Oct. 17 along with two others.

Lobaton, who topped last year's Roxas City leg in 1:09:39, finished the race this time in 1:10:28.

"Medyo bumagal ng konti dahil kagagaling ko lang sa injury," said Lobaton, an Armyman and former walkathoner who missed last year's finals also because of an injury.

Lobaton will be joined in the 42-km Milo finals, also supported by Department of Tourism, Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas and MyGlobe, by second placer Remil Desuyo (1:12:45) and third placer Rogin Diaz (1:14:18).

Gloria Diaz has remained undefeated in five races in the last two months. Last year, she placed second in the National Finals.

Roselyn Cabantugan (1:44:48) and Elma Vega (1:51:57) will join Diaz in the Metro Manila finals.

Last year, 17-year-old Marigen Campos and 13-year-old Cherrie Gil Saba finished in the top three of the 20K run but were dropped from the winners' circle for failing to meet the age requirement.

This year, Campos ran again—in the 5K side event—and won it in 18:59. She was followed home by Sealand Agana and Saba.

Bata & Co. grace Forum

THE PROTAGONISTS in the coming Europe vs. Philippines billiards challenge will grace the special edition of the PSA Forum 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Manila Pavilion.

Manager Aristeo "Putch" Puyat will be with his wards Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Antonio Lining and Warren Kiamco.

The Europeans will be represented by Mika Immonen of Finland, Ralf Soquet of Germany, Niels Flejen of the Netherlands and Marcus Camat of Sweden.

The program is supported by Red Bull, Agfa and Pagcor.

Pila run listing on

REGISTRATION for the first Pila Heritage Run set July 29 has started for town residents aged 12 to 17 years old.

Entry forms are available from Sangguniang Kabataan chairman Queen Alarva and other SK officials. For details, call 0917-691-1259.

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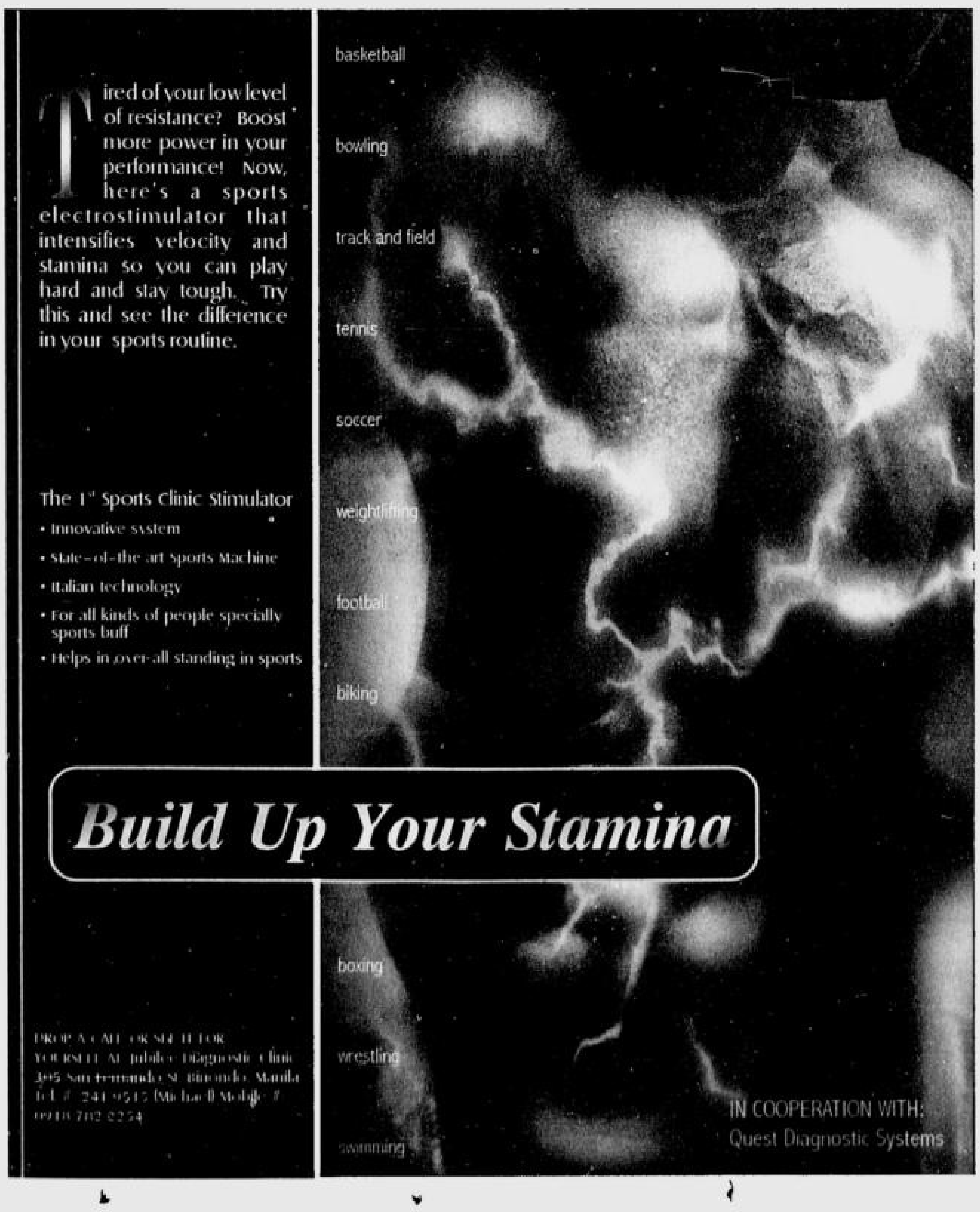

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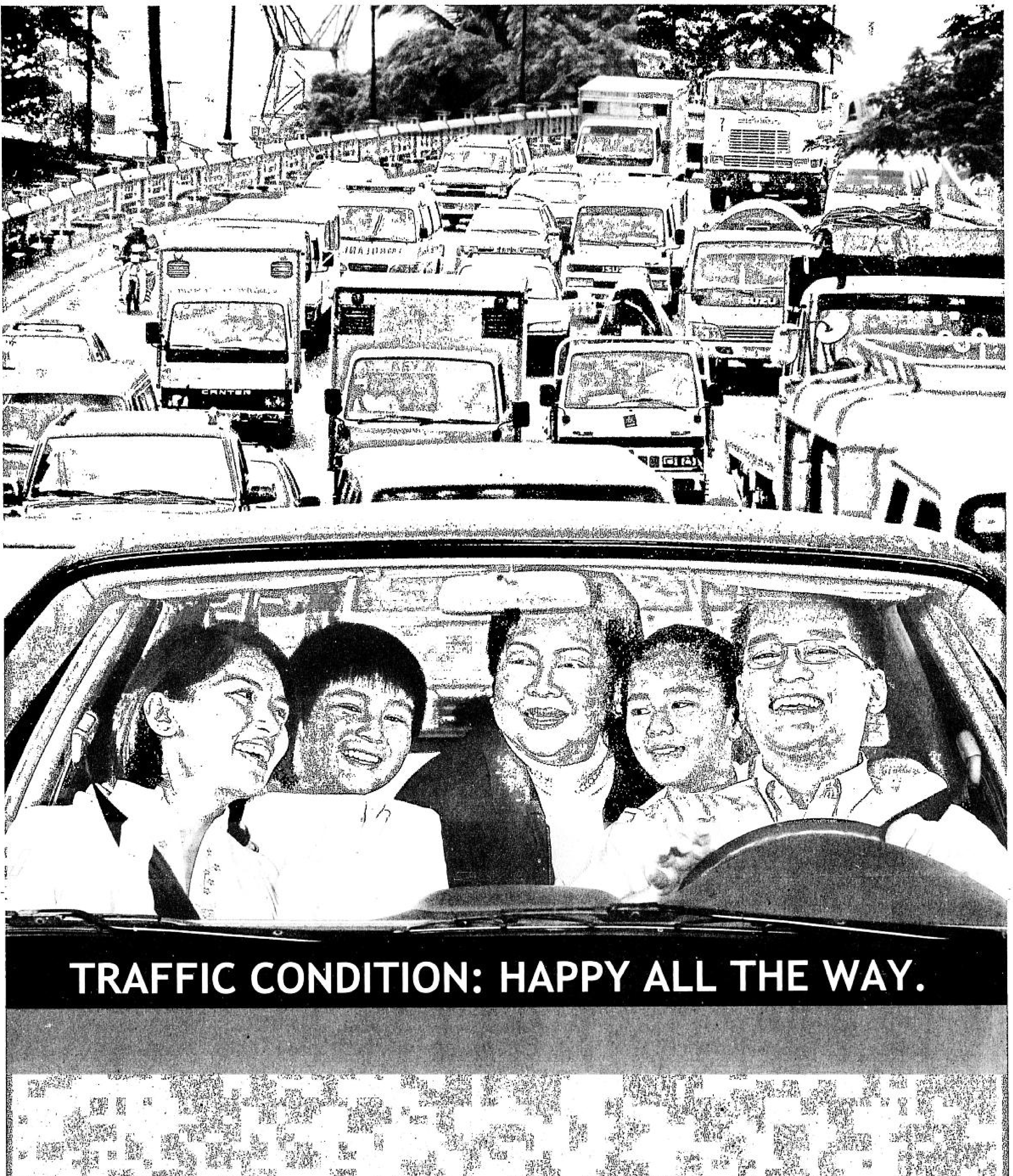

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ROSALES safely hurdled the 36-hole cut with birdies on the third, fourth, seventh and eighth holes. She parred the rest.

Jenny improves with 4-under 67

ANGELA Stanford is in uncharted territory, and she likes it.

After taking a one-shot lead in the ShopRite LPGA Classic June 28, she found herself in the interview area at the Seaview Marriott Resort, facing a roomful of reporters.

"It's good to see you guys," she said, smiling.

Stanford, 25, of Saginaw, Texas, has yet to win since joining the LPGA Tour in 2000. She clung to the lead over Juli Inkster and three others, while the tour's top player—Annika Sorenstam—lurked four shots back.

Filipina Jenny Rosales, meanwhile, made a great recovery as she charged back with a four-under-par 67 to jump to a tie for 41st spot.

In danger of missing the cut with a 74 on Friday that put her in 99th place, Rosales was back in the groove on Saturday as she made birdies on the third, fourth, seventh and eighth holes then parred the rest in a big improvement from her struggling form the past two weeks.

Rosales hit 13 fairways and 15 greens for the day, showing ominous signs in time for next week's US Women's Open in Portland.

"I'm excited because I believe you learn how to win, at any level," Stanford said. "So, I think I get to learn a lot tomorrow. I get to learn what it's like to be in the final group. I've never been in the final group on Sunday."

Stanford, who started the day sharing the lead with two others, used solid iron play and putting to card five birdies en route to 132.

Four players were bunched up one shot behind her, including the two-time ShopRite champ Inkster, while 13-year-old sensation Michelle Wie was 11 strokes back after a 72.

Sorenstam, the tour's No. 1 player and the defending champion, roared back into contention after a lackluster opening round by shooting a 66.

Stanford, who shared the opening-round lead with Laura Diaz and Kris Lindstrom, holed an 8-foot birdie putt on the par-4 345-yard first hole while playing partners Diaz and Lindstrom bogeyed to set the stage for her round.

Stanford's only blemish was a bogey on the 187-yard 11th, when she missed a 15-footer for par.

Sorenstam, who has won three tour events this year, shot a 70 in the opening round, saying later a new, livelier ball had given her trouble. But she birdied two of her first three holes Saturday and was poised to make a run at the championship Sunday.

Inkster, for one, wasn't ready to count her out: "I'm always worried about Annika. You always hope in the back of your mind that she stays off the leaderboard," said Inkster, who was one stroke back along with Michele Redman and Diana D'Alessio.

Jong Arcano

Golde
on am

By Recah Trinidad

A DISTINCT light wraps the quiet face of the man as he preaches and demonstrates the gospel of championship boxing.

Dr. Alcides Sagarra Caron, 66, director general of the Cuban boxing team, is not unlike a heaven-sent gardener here to revive the dormant buds of a sport that continues to try but has yet to achieve full fruition.

In truth, he has been invited over to help the country fulfill the elusive dream of winning its first Olympic gold medal.

Dr. Sagarra's credentials are astounding. As director general of his country's boxing program since Cuba first entered the Olympics in 1964, he's directly responsible for the 27 Olympic boxing gold medals his country has amassed.

He certainly knows the secrets of winning (the gold).

So, it's no coincidence that the nine-day course started last week through the efforts of the International Olympic Committee Solidarity Movement and the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) is called: Fast-tracking the quest for the Olympic gold.

Maybe the light that envelops Dr. Sagarra's face during the teach-ins symbolizes gold.

But to the assorted figures—ex-Olympians, paunchy

DEAN OF CUB
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As for Mel Lo

Child play

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WHAT do our poor, small boys out there do by the time they turn six or seven?

They loiter, maybe they also look for something significant to do, but often end up doing nothing.

Not Cuban boys, says the legendary Alcides Sagarra Caron, visiting director general of the Cuban National Boxing Team.

Most, if not all, tiny Cubanos box, he explains.

At that young age?

Si, yes, Dr. Sagarra assures, but these sm
Cubanos take boxing only as a game.

Boxing as child play, to be more exact.

**

How's that possible.

Simple, explains Dr. Sagarra, because they pl
boxing like others their age play hide-and-seek.

Of course, these tiny Cubanos are guided by sh
basics.

This is made possible, Dr. Sagarra says, by
presence of sports institutes in each and all
provinces of Cuba.

Dr. Sagarra, in a luncheon conversation with t
reporter and Quinito Henson of the Star at the Pa
ic Heights in Calaca, Batangas on Friday, says box
has been in the mainstream of Cuban street life.

By a plain estimate, Sagarra says there are ab
20,000 active amateur boxers in the whole of Cu
at any given time.

**

Anyway, once these playful Cuban kids grow
and after having indulged in boxing as mere ch
play, they next undergo screening.

Then the worthier ones, after they turn elev
start competing formally in school tournaments
in other contests under the auspices of the sports
stitute.

It becomes truly serious once an aspiring bo
turns 17 as he's exposed to a higher level of comp
tion, through which future national boxers are c
sen.

**

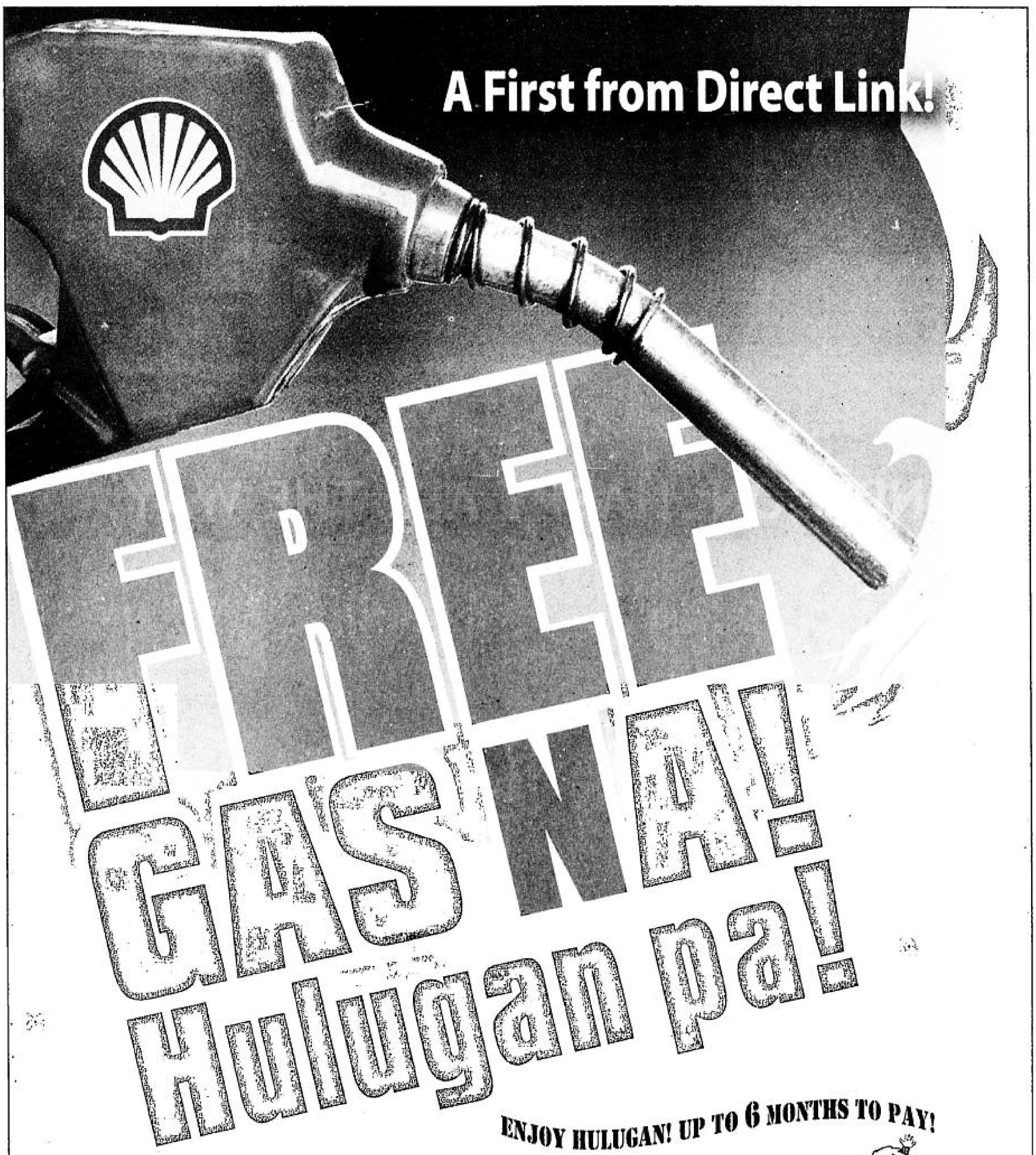
Anyway, Dr. Sagarra was not about to suggest t
the Philippines should copy the Cuban model.

Look, if our sports leaders, not to mention the
tional government, could not put up a single sp
academy here, what more of a sports institute
each region?

Of course, something must be done right now
rescue Filipino kids from endlessly drowning
primitive, useless basketball basics in the countl
sandlots all over the land.

This indeed is basketball country, and a step in
right direction could be done only by introduc
proper basics in a still absent national developm
program.

But what can we expect here, where top sp
leaders, based on their latest tantrums and sel
cries, are visibly taking their role in sports devel
ment as child play?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n light shines ateur boxing

AN BOXING MENTORS: Dr. Alcides Sagarra Caron structions to Filipino coaches in yesterday's teach- nvited over to help the country fulfill the elusive g its first Olympic gold medal.

s, provincial he 50 something the nine-day ban master could ctor.

here to heal. ugh the nine-day ay, Rene Fort- etary general, good and assur- pened to their ram.

were them- aring Dr. Sagar- ve awakened possibilities that .

ez, of the sponsoring Pacific Heights and father of Abap president Manny Lopez, all he could do was nod and agree that the Philippines would have been successful in its Olympic gold quest had Dr. Sagarra been here earlier.

In truth though, Mel Lopez was unwilling to make that assurance until Dr. Sagarra all-too-willingly imparted to local trainees what's considered the secret behind the enviable Cuban victories: footwork and coordination.

Yes, Dr. Sagarra could be the healer RP amateur boxing has been waiting for. Take it from this reporter who attended a full-day session with him, conducted at the cool, scenic Pacific Heights facilities in Calaca, Batangas, a dream place wrapped with the climate and wonders of nearby Tagaytay.

OK, there was nothing much in the morning lectures done in Spanish, mainly because a lot of the necessary details would be drowned out in the translation.

But after the lunch break, Dr. Sagarra snaps out of his shell and inevitably figures out as the real thing.

'You don't know how **lucky** we've been to have this great man here'

Slowly, surely, with the meticulousness of a surgeon, Dr. Sagarra operates by demonstrating hitherto hidden basics that the attendees gleefully take.

Through all the tactical exercises, punching, footwork, defense, etc., he harks on the need for intelligence and discipline.

It's a long, colorful session which could surely tire down a man of Dr. Sagarra's age. But the professor, tentative before the microphone during the morning lectures, turns into an aggressive young fighter, light and quick on his feet, sharp with his wit and his fists as his bronze-colored face lights up during the actual demos.

Later, Rene Fortaleza would bare how the Cuban master scolded one trainee who opted to throw a punch when he was still being taught how to position his feet.

It's always one step at a time, no hurry, or you miss a vital move that could spell the difference in a bout, if not in your whole career.

Fortaleza also revealed how other Cuban coaches who had come to Manila had never dared try what Dr. Segara has been generously imparting to the Filipino trainees.

There's actually a plan for Dr. Sagarra to have a look-see of the members of the Philippine team that departs for the World Amateur Boxing Championship in Bangkok later in the week.

But the main aim of the teach-ins, says the father-and-son tandem of Mel and Manny Lopez, is for the current trainees to spread the gospel of winning (according to the Cuban master) in their respective localities.

"You don't know how lucky we've been to have this great man here," Mel Lopez says.

"If I could find a way, I would name a boxing gym after him."

The boxing teach-ins, conducted at the Aloha Hotel, end on Wednesday.

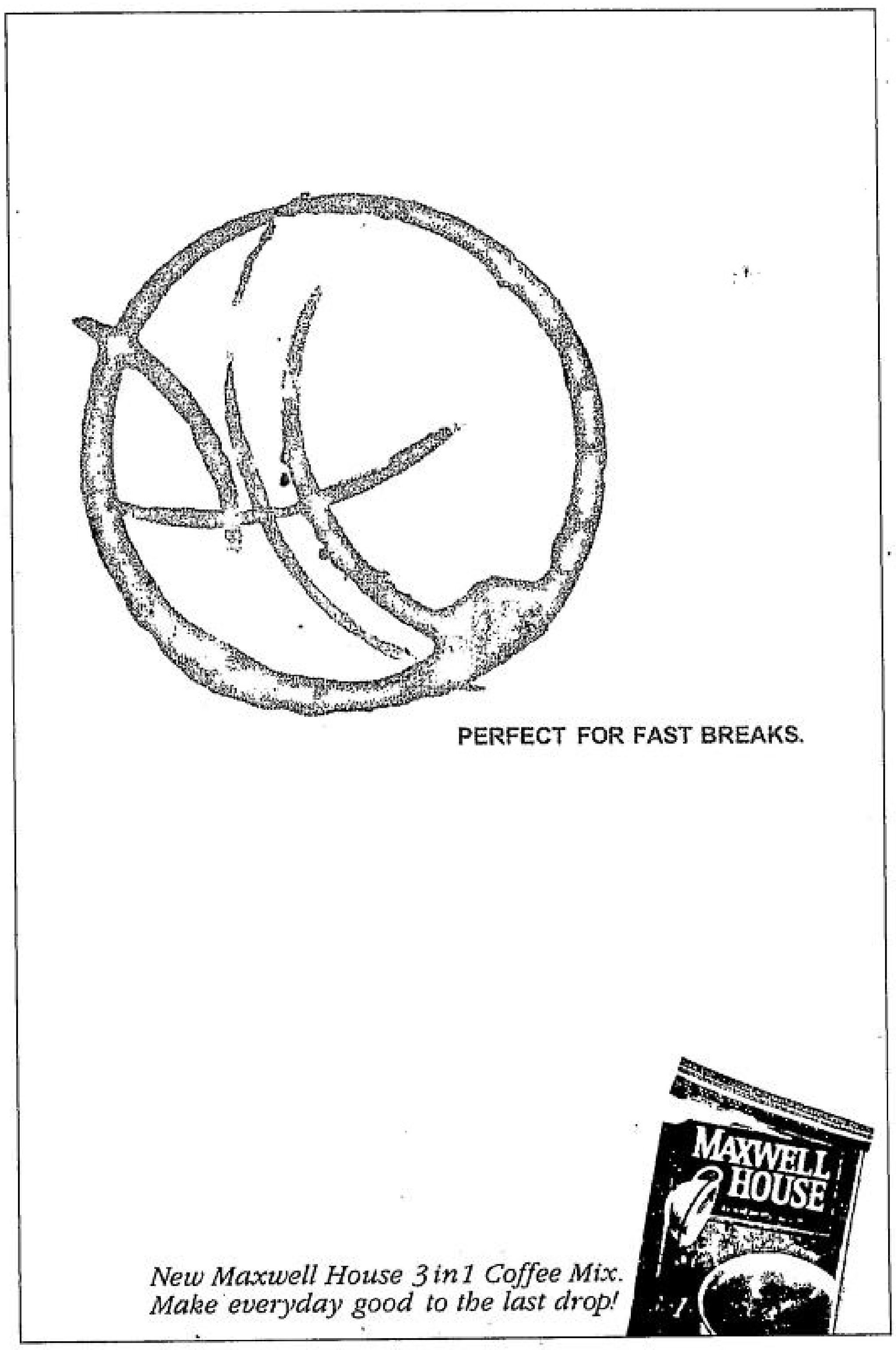
Northwoods on track for semis

ROYAL Northwoods of Bulacan boosted its drive for one of the two automatic semifinals berths with a 3-1 victory over Sta. Elena during the week in various venues to keep the best record in Federation Golf League.

Group I: Eastridge 9, Manila Golf 6, Mimosa 3, Southwoods 3, Highlands 2

Group II: Alabang 7, Forest Hills 7, Valley 6, Wack Wack 3, Orchard 2, John Hay 1

Group III: Royal Northwoods 11, Canlubang 7, Mt. Malarayat 6, Riviera 6, Sherwood 4, Sta. Elena 1



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Unbeaten Morel decisions Garcia, keeps title

BAYAMON, Puerto Rico—Unbeaten Eric Morel defended his World Boxing Association flyweight crown in style here Saturday in his homeland, taking a unanimous decision over American challenger Isidro Garcia.

Morel won by judges scored of 116-110, 115-111 and 115-111, improving his record to 33-0. Garcia fell to 22-3 with two draws.

Morel is considering moving up to the junior bantamweight or bantamweight division, but could keep his title for one more flyweight fight—a unification showdown against Colombian Irene Pacheco.

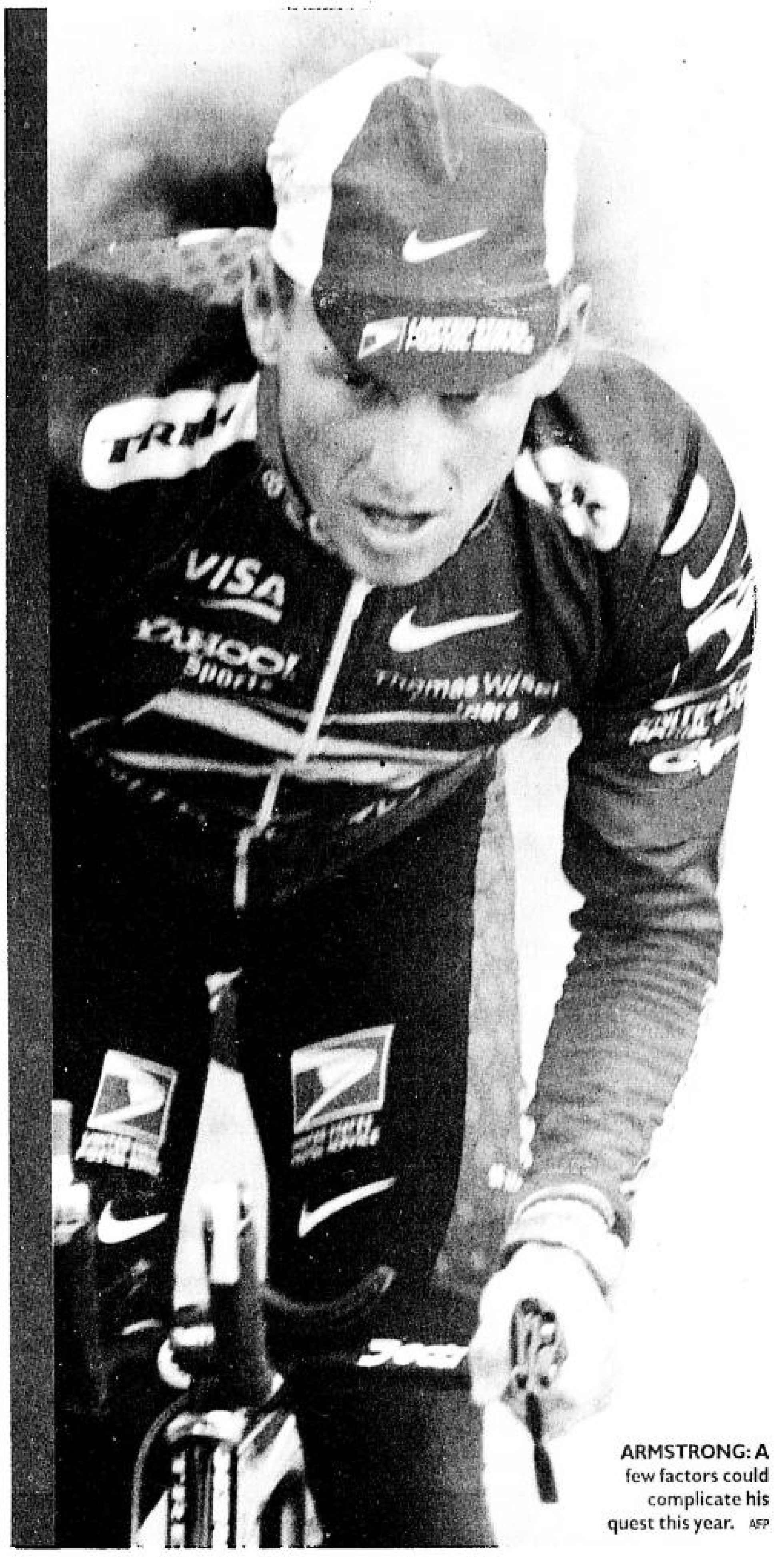
Pacheco, the International Boxing Federation champion, is 29-0 with 22 knockouts and called out Morel before his defense, vowing to fight him next.

In Cardiff, Welshman Joe Calzaghe successfully defended his WBO super-middleweight title on Saturday when he stopped American opponent Byron Mitchell in the second round.

But the 31-year-old had to overcome the first knockdown of his professional career before ending Mitchell's hopes of a shock win.

After dominating the first round, Calzaghe was stunned early in the second when Mitchell, a former double WBA champion, sent him crashing to the canvas with a huge right hand.

The Welshman, who had already mounted 12 successful defenses of his title since 1997, got up and sent Mitchell to the floor with a left hook and the fight was stopped. *AFP*



ARMSTRONG: A few factors could complicate his quest this year. AFP

Magic 5 in his sights

Lance Armstrong chasing history in Tour de France

PARIS—Lance Armstrong is already one of the greats of the Tour de France, a member of a select group to have won cycling's premier race four times.

The question now is: How close will he get to being the greatest?

The Texan is aiming for his fifth straight victory when this year's Tour begins July 5. The feat would match a record held by only one man, Spain's Miguel Indurain, who won 1991-95.

Three other racers have won five Tours, but none of them consecutively, and a victory this year would put the 31-year-old US Postal rider in line for an unprecedented sixth win.

While the punishing three-week race is never easy, Armstrong won last year's Tour with a comfortable lead of more than 7 minutes, and even he is suggesting he wouldn't mind a little more competition.

"The Tour de France could be a lot closer," he said earlier this month during the Dauphine Libere race, which he later won. "That's more exciting, which is fine by me."

But Armstrong's enduring strength, his single-minded focus on the Tour and the lack of obvious challengers mean he remains the favorite to win again this year.

There are, however, a few factors that could complicate Armstrong's quest this year.

One is age. While racers have won the Tour well into their 30s, all of the five-time winners made their final successful bids before their 32nd birthdays—and two of them before they were 30.

Armstrong, who overcame testicular cancer to win his first Tour in 1999, acknowledges that he's getting older, but he insists he's still in top form.

He has not had a stellar season so far this year, however. He finished 20th at the Liege-Bastogne-Liege classic in Belgium at the end of April, and then didn't race until the Dauphine Libere, which ended June 15.

He also toppled from his bicycle during the Dauphine Libere. While he continued—and won—the race, the fall still shook him up.

"First, I have to recover from my fall last week," Armstrong was quoted as telling the French newspaper *20 Minutes*. "I've never had an accident like that."

This year's contest also marks the return of German cyclist Jan Ullrich, who won the Tour in 1997. He's coming back from nearly two years of injuries and a drug ban.

It's not clear whether Ullrich will be at the height of his powers after the long absence. But Armstrong sees him as a challenge.

"Ullrich looks in better shape than he's ever been, he's one of the biggest engines in cycling, and he knows he can win it," Armstrong said.

Armstrong has also listed as potential Tour rivals Spanish cyclist Iban Mayo, the runner-up at Dauphine Libere, and up-and-coming American racer Tyler Hamilton, a former US Postal teammate who rides for Danish CSC Tiscali.

Hamilton, 32, won the Liege-Bastogne-Liege on April 27 and Switzerland's Tour of Romandie in early May.

"Tyler's a threat. If you had to name 10 people, he's on the list," Armstrong said. "He climbs well, he time-trials well."

Another rival is Italian climbing specialist Gilberto Simoni. He was excluded from the Tour last year after testing positive for cocaine metabolites. He was later cleared by the Italian cycling federation and won this year's Giro d'Italia. *AP*

Penta champ Lewis 'sets bad example'

LONDON—IOC president Jacques Rogge says that Olympic pentathlon champion Denise Lewis is setting a bad example by associating herself with coach Ekkart Arbeit, who admits he was part of the shamed East German doping program of the 1970s and '80s.

Interviewed by London's *Sunday Times*, the IOC president said Lewis, as a champion, had a responsibility to stay away from anyone whose reputation had been tainted.

Lewis is being coached by Arbeit, who was involved in the widespread doping of East German athletes for almost 20 years. Although he has now declared himself clean, the association with cheating remains.

"I speak as a sports lover and I think she's being so unwise, in terms of perception," Rogge was quoted as saying.

"This is an association of an Olympic champion, an icon, with a man who has a reputation that's, what shall we say, not the best, and that's no good.

"When you are an Olympic champion you also have responsibilities. When you have this honor you cannot only take and not give," Rogge said. *AP*

Breakthrough pole start for Raikkonen

NUERBURGRING, Germany—McLaren and Mercedes sensed history repeating itself as Kimi Raikkonen took his first Formula One pole position at the Nuerburgring on Saturday.

The 23-year-old is in his third season in Formula One, but underlined his growing potential with a drive of immense maturity to deny hometown hero Michael Schumacher the pole by 0.032 seconds.

By a strange twist of fate, the Finn's achievement at the European Grand Prix mirrored compatriot and two-time world champion Mika Hakkinen's first pole at the circuit in a McLaren in 1997.

"I think it's a great coincidence that Mika had his first pole here as well, in 1997," said Mercedes motorsport boss Norbert Haug.

"That was the start of a great era. If you remember it was his first pole, he got his first win later in the year and then he won the world championship the year after.

"In history whatever starts at the Nuerburgring, in our respect, came great," he added, referring to the circuit's place in Mercedes lore.

"Kimi took the opportunity and we are certainly pleased. It was a great achievement."

The last time Raikkonen started a race on pole was in British Formula Renault, in 2000. Raikkonen could not remember exactly where or when.

Since the start of the season, the Finn has left British team mate David Coulthard trailing. In Malaysia in March he became the youngest driver to win a race since New Zealander Bruce McLaren in 1959.

RAIKKONEN: Seeking history AFP

He has led the championship for five races, presenting as much of a challenge to Ferrari's Michael Schumacher as Hakkinen did, and could yet become the youngest ever champion.

Raikkonen and David Coulthard are still using a development of last year's MP4-17 car, while reliability issues are solved with the new MP4-18. The debut of the new machine was set for this weekend but is now scheduled for the British Grand Prix.

Schumacher, who leads Raikkonen in the standings by three points halfway through the season, reclaimed the overall lead in Canada two weeks ago and is racing at home on Sunday for the first time this year. *Reuters*

Matsui preserves Clemens' 301st win with big hits

NEW YORK—Roger Clemens earned his 301st victory, and Hideki Matsui hit a grand slam and drove in a career-high five runs as the New York Yankees beat the Mets 7-1 Saturday in the first game of a two-ballpark, day-night doubleheader.

Clemens (8-5) allowed six hits, struck out seven and walked one in eight sharp innings, his first victory since winning his 300th game June 13. He moved past Hall of Famers Lefty Grove and Early Wynn for sole possession of 19th place on the career wins list as the Yankees won their fifth straight.

Matsui gave the Yankees a 4-0 lead in the third with his second major league grand slam, and that was all the support Clemens needed at Yankee Stadium.

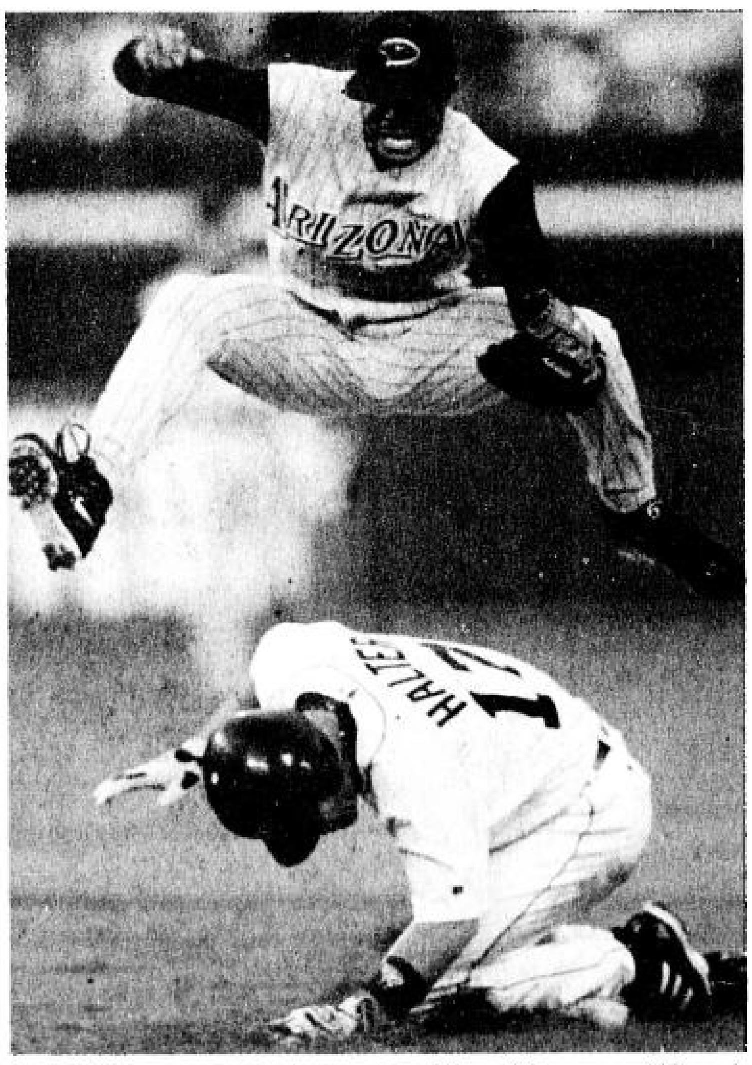
The Yankees roughed up Jeremy Griffiths (0-1) in his first official major league start. He started last Saturday's game against the Yankees and allowed four runs—three earned—and six hits before it was rained out, forcing Saturday night's makeup game at Shea Stadium.

Following the game, the teams were set to bus over to Shea to play the nightcap at 8:10 p.m. It was just the second two-park doubleheader in the majors since 1903.

In San Francisco, Pedro Feliz singled home the winning run in the 10th inning, and Barry Bonds homered as San Francisco rallied from an early six-run deficit to beat Oakland.

The game was expected to be a pitchers' duel between Kirk Rueter and Barry Zito, but it turned into a slugfest featuring 30 hits—including Bonds' 635th homer.

In Chicago, D'Angelo Jimenez hit an RBI single to score Magglio Ordonez as the White Sox beat the Cubs 7-6 Saturday and handed their cross-town rivals another ninth-inning loss. *AP*



ARIZONA Diamondbacks shortstop Tony Womack leaps to avoid Detroit Tigers' Shane Halter after making the force out at second base in the second inning of their game in Detroit. Arizona blanked Detroit, 7-0. AP

SETE Gibernau leads Max Biaggi shortly after the start of the Dutch prix. REUTERS

Spaniard rules Dutch GP ahead of Biaggi, Rossi

ASSEN, Netherlands—Spaniard Sete Gibernau, riding a Honda, took advantage of wet conditions to win the MotoGP race at the Dutch Grand Prix on Saturday.

Gibernau came home first in 42 minutes 39.006 seconds, ahead of Italians Max Biaggi (42:49.117) in second and Valentino Rossi (42:52.881), who was third.

"It would have been much harder, for sure, in the dry. Valentino and Max had better pace than me in the dry," Gibernau said.

The race was delayed when a downpour interrupted the warm-up lap and riders had to switch to full wet tyres.

The win is the third victory of the season for Gibernau, who ranks second in the championship, 38 points behind Rossi.

Rain reduced visibility during parts of the race to a few meters.

"I had a good start and tried to stay with Sete Gibernau, but from behind it was very, very difficult," said Rossi. *Reuters*

PBA losing its luster

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IS THE Philippine Basketball Association slowly losing its credibility and rapport with the public? Is the PBA now losing its luster? I ask these questions because the ongoing All-Filipino Cup is supposed to be interesting, but it seems the fans are not biting. They are still shying away from most of the games despite all the media hype and hoopla. What is happening Commissioner Noli Eala?

Widely regarded as the country's most profitable and popular professional league, the PBA is now facing many problems such as dwindling crowd interest in the games, mounting complaints against biased officiating, loss of television and radio revenues and low ratings, the drug scandal and the unpleasant reports linking well-connected insiders to the hiring of several Fil-foreign players with dubious documents.

If Eala wants to save the PBA from dying and regain its lofty standing as the country's premier basketball organization, he should initiate immediate reforms such as improving the quality of officiating, reverting to the old format where victories in the elimination round are carried over in the quarterfinals and semifinals, wielding the big stick in dealing with the Fil-Shams and treating fairly those players found positive for banned substance by giving them due process.

Sen. Robert Jaworski, a former basketball star, recently said there were indeed flaws in the implementation of the PBA drug testing program which became the basis for imposing suspensions on several top players such as Jun Limpot of Barangay Ginebra, Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull and Noli Locsin of Talk N Text. "The players' rights had been violated and this should be addressed immediately," said the 56-year-old senator, citing sections 14 and 17 of the Bill of Rights in the Philippine Constitution which guarantees that no person shall be held to answer for something without due process. "The fact that the players didn't have much time to react before their names were revealed to the public placed the burden of proof on the players, who would otherwise dispute the findings," he said.

Jaworski had filed Senate Resolution 616 asking his colleagues to authorize the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports to help enact remedial measures aimed at addressing the very delicate drug issue and correcting the errors in the drug testing process and the standards used by the PBA, health department officials and police authorities.

And speaking of the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports, Sen. Robert Barbers, committee chair, also said five PBA mainstays who claimed to have Filipino roots were not telling the truth. The committee said players Asi Taulava, John Ordonio, Ali Peek, Dorian Peña and Rudy Hatfield had presented dubious papers in claiming they were half-Filipinos. Barbers said his committee had conducted an investigation and visited the places of birth of people that these players claimed to be their relatives, but his committee couldn't find the birth, baptismal and even the death certificates of their supposed relatives.

There are, of course, many other unresolved problems facing Eala such as the Bong Hawkins case, the PBA's outstanding debt with the Games and Amusement Board, the lack of a permanent playing venue and the TV letter of credit snafu, leading many to say that "it seems Commissioner Eala is losing control of the whole situation."

ON TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dableo tops Asian Zonal

By Roy Luarca

DABLEO

RONALD Dableo felt doubly blessed after the Asian Zonal 3.2a chess championships ended in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam yesterday.

Not only did he earn his International Master title, he also topped the tournament and gained a GM result to go with a slot to next year's world championships.

"*Yong naging* IM lang *masaya na ako. Sobrang grasya ng panginoon ang aking natanggap* (I'm so happy becoming an IM. This is a great gift from God)," said Dableo. "I'm dedicating my victory to my wife (Tara Jade), our baby, my family, the Philippine Air Force, my countrymen and to the Lord."

Bucking the odds, Dableo beat Indonesian Fide master Irwanto Sadikin in the ninth and final round to boost his total to 7 points, half a point ahead of compatriots GM Joey Antonio and GM-candidate Mark Paragua.

Paragua went on to beat Antonio, 3-2, in a rapid-chess playoff to win the second berth to the world championships.

Antonio, who toppled Dableo in the eighth round, drew with the top-seeded GM Wu Shaobin of Singapore while Paragua bested IM Sitanggang Salor of Indonesia to catch up with Antonio at 6.5 points.

The Filipino contingent made a very good showing as GMs Eugene Torre and Bong Villamayor wound up tied for fourth to sixth places with Shaobin at 6 points.

Torre downed Vietnamese To Quoc Khanh while Villamayor split the point with another Vietnamese, Pham Chuong.

It was sweet revenge for the Filipinos, who were humbled by the Vietnamese in the 2001 Manila Zonals.

Dableo, a first timer in the event, and Paragua will join fellow GM Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam and GM Utut Adianto of Indonesia in the 2004 world championships.

Filipina WIM Arianne Caoili wasn't as fortunate, however. Caoili could only draw her final game against Le Kieu Thien Kim and finished with 5.5 points in the women's division.

Meanwhile, second seed and newly installed IM Richard Bitoon and 6th seed NM Rolly Martinez beat their respective rivals to remain on top with identical 7.0 points after the eighth round of the 2003 Governor Remedios "Matin" L. Petilla Chess Championships yesterday in Tacloban City.

Bitoon downed top seed and IM Chito Garma in 46 moves of a Sicilian Skirmish, while Martinez subdued 4th seeded Fide Master Jesse Noel Salas in just 23 moves of a Pirc Defense. *With a report from Marlon Bernardino*

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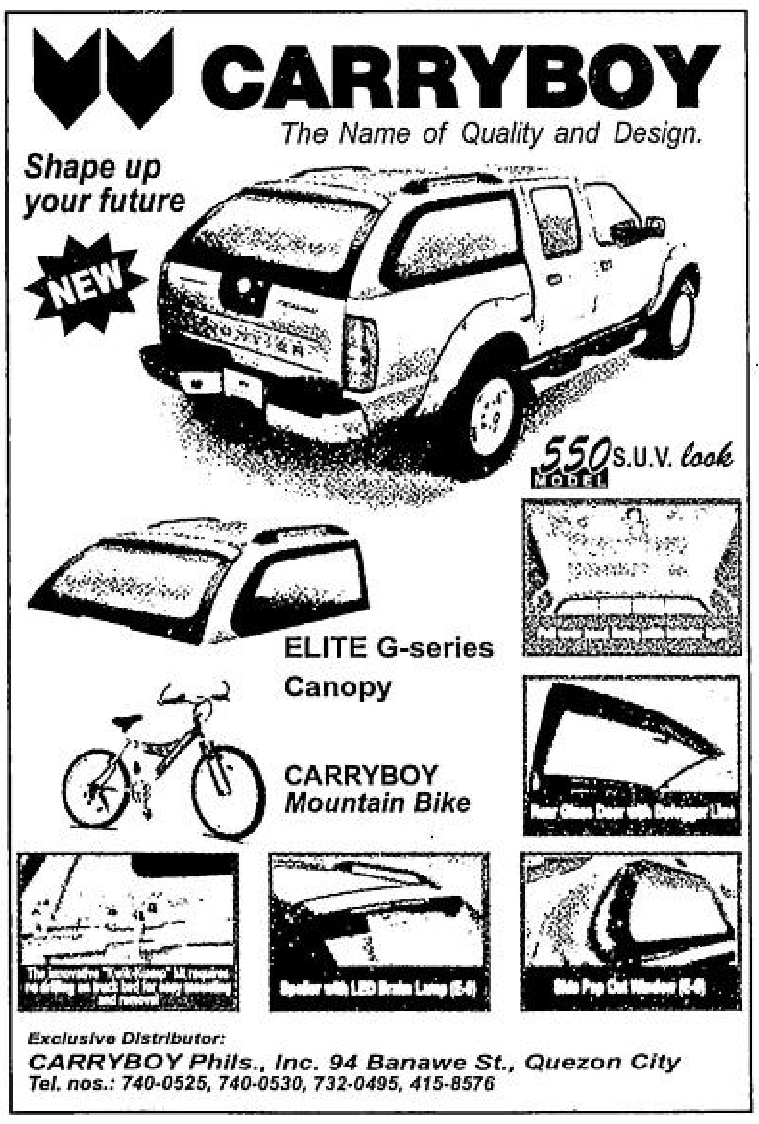

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Pasay derby slated

MORE than 200 entries are expected to take part in the Anniversary 5-Cock Derby at the fully air-conditioned Pasay Cockpit on July 15, 17 and 19.

Eric dela Rosa, one of Pasay Cockpit's pit managers, said that the event was extended to three days to accommodate all entries.

At least P1 million is at stake in the derby which has an entry fee of P15,000. The first five champions will get an 8 cu. ft. refrigerator.

Submission of entries is on July 14, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more details, call 816-1890 and 843-1746.

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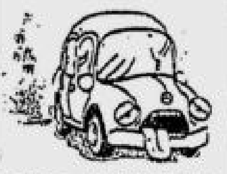

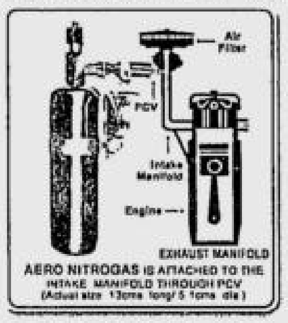

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West Bound one win shy of TC sweep

By Edwin Villanueva

WITH the way he ran yesterday, West Bound is indeed bound to score a sweep in this year's Triple Crown series.

West Bound unleashed a scorching rally nearing the home turn to mow down the opposition and rule the J.V. Ongpin Cup at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

The victory nudged the handsome colt on the threshold of ruling all three legs of the annual series.

If he wins the Horseman's Cup on July 27, West Bound would join eight other TC champions, including his grandsire—the great Fair and Square.

"*Ang ganda ng itinakbo. Parang nagtrangko lang* (He ran a good race. It was like a workout)," said Jeffril Zarate of his mount, a son of Hezagone West out of a Fair and Square progeny Fair Maiden.

West Bound finished the 1,900-meter contest three lengths clear of Security Master, who was four lengths up on third placer Speed Machine. Iverson won the photo for fourth over High Octane and Success Story, then came Kokopelli and Galapagos.

Exactly mirroring his impressive Cojuangco Cup triumph, West Bound just watched from fourth spot before moving in for the kill.

Security Master, with Val Dilema aboard, had just taken the lead from Success Story at the far turn when West Bound whizzed by and stormed ahead for good.

"I thank the Lord for answering my prayers," added Zarate, who took over from the suspended J.B. Hernandez, West Bound's regular rider currently serving a suspension.

The win was worth another P1 million for the C&H Enterprises, which shot to fame in 1981 when Fair and Square (Fair Sea-Belgrave Square) became the first horse to sweep the local version of the US Triple Crown.

West Bound covered the race in 2:01.5 (16.5-26-25.5-26-26.5).

Meanwhile, unheralded Secret Lover came from nowhere to upset the field in the Hopeful Stakes.

Handled by Jeffrey Bacaycay, Secret Lover split horses down the stretch to win the 1,500-meter race and prevent Zarate from scoring a double kill.

Zarate's mount, Hermie Esguerra's Tatler Cover, wound up second after edging Successful Dream.

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George Yang offers P3B for Boni land

Doris C. Dumlao

CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman George Yang, who holds the Philippine franchise for fast-food chain McDonald's, has edged out property giants Ayala Land Inc. and Robinsons Land Corp. with a P3-billion bid for a prime 25-hectare property in the former Fort Bonifacio military camp.

Sources privy to the bidding held by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) last Thursday disclosed to the INQUIRER that Yang's publicly listed unit Alliance Global Group Inc. (AGI) had proposed a joint venture with P5-billion in investment commitment. In terms of present value, AGI offered P3 billion for the property, more than double the offer made by the next highest bidder.

However, the BCDA has yet to officially declare AGI as the winning bidder despite the standout offer as the state agency wanted to further study the various proposals submitted by all four bidders, a government source said.

"We'd like to make sure we'll do this right," the source said, noting that an official announcement would be made in the next few days.

The Gokongweis' Robinsons Land Corp. was the second highest bidder as it offered P1.4 billion in net present value, which refers to the present value of an investment's future net cash flow minus the initial investment.

The property auctioned off is outside the 150-ha Fort Bonifacio Global City that was awarded by the BCDA to the consortium led by Metro Pacific Corp. in 1995. The 25-ha property is bounded on the north by the American Battle Monument and by C-5 on the east.

RLC presented the BCDA with two options: either a P1.4-billion joint venture residential development or the outright sale of the property in exchange for P1.2 billion in cash, the sources explained.

Ayala Land Inc., which has the biggest interest in the former military camp, came in third with a P500-million joint venture package.

Aside from recently taking over a controlling stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., which is developing the adjacent 150-ha Fort Bonifacio Global City, ALI is developing a 99-ha lot into a regional shopping mall called Market!Market! and another 8.5-ha lot into a residential area for the middle- and high-end income markets.

An official from one of the bidders warned that a wide margin between the highest bidder and the rest could indicate an overvaluation of the property, which would be good for the government only as long as the bidder could keep its commitments in the future.

"The last thing the BCDA will want to do is to end up with another Camp John Hay and Fort Bonifacio Global City in its hands," the official said.

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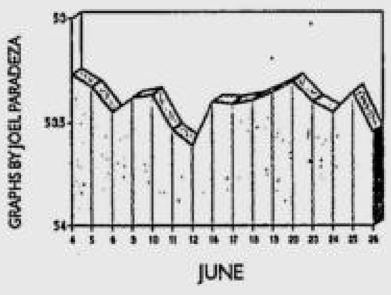

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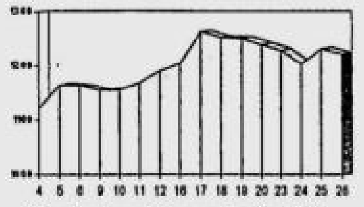

(See stock market report on Page B6)

LOCAL stocks are seen to continue trading with caution this week with more investors locking in gains from previous rallies, traders said.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at 1,236.60 or 0.32 percent higher week-on-week on Friday, yielding to profit-taking pressures.

Manny Cruz, an analyst at Belson Securities, said he expected share prices to further weaken this week as most blue chips have hit overbought levels. He said the Phisix would likely break the 1,200 support this week and head toward the next support level at 1,170.

"The volatile Dow Jones compounded by the lack of fresh develop-

CAUTIOUS/ B6

Gov't to cancel 2 auctions of treasury bills, notes

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury is poised to cancel the P3-billion, two-year treasury bond auction tomorrow and the P9 billion treasury bill sale next week to give the market a breather after the government successfully sold P63.7 billion of three- and five-year retail treasury bonds.

The amount raised from the issuance of RTBs was equivalent to $1.2 billion.

Officials said that with the substantial money raised from the local market, the government could afford not to borrow its remaining $900 million in foreign financing requirement for the year.

This would mean a big adjustment in the government's borrowing mix for the year that originally consisted of P103.27 billion in local currency and P95.281 billion in foreign currencies to complete a net borrowing program of P198.551 billion.

However, sources said a declining level of dollar reserves could be a big factor that could prompt the national government to consider going back to the offshore bond market even after completing a $500-million to $1-billion, 10-year global bond issue to be launched soon on behalf of National Power Corp.

The government had programmed only between P10 billion and P20 billion in proceeds from the sale of RTBs this year. Effectively, more than P40 billion was not in

GOV'T/ B2

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Nat'l gov't to float 10-year bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

IN PLACE of the cancelled $500-million, 10-year National Power Corp. debt papers, the Philippines is set to launch the sale of as much as $1 billion worth of bonds maturing in 2014 to be handled by Citigroup together with two of the government's main underwriters--Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan Securities.

Market sources said the national government could easily raise $500 million from the 10-year global bond market and increasing the size to $750 million or even to $1 billion was something that local finance and monetary officials were willing to accept.

A source pointed out that in January, orders for 10-year Philippine global bonds reached $1 billion but the government decided to sell only $500 million as planned given that the borrowing climate was less favorable at that time.

With $1 billion, the government could lend three-fourths to the power firm, which has so far raised only $200 million of its $1.2-billion requirement for the year. The state could use $250 million to reduce its remaining requirement of $900 million after having raised some $1.5 billion in the first quarter.

The new borrowing was approved in principle by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy-making Monetary Board last Friday, the same day the go-ahead was sought to facilitate the negotiations with underwriters as

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Weird bank

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FINALLY, the GSIS wants to go into the stock market. It is hiring professional fund managers to invest for it a good size of the multi-billion-peso pension fund.

Under this cute administration of Gloriaetta, the GSIS, together with the SSS, became the only pension funds in the world which did not bother with the stock market.

I don't know, but maybe GSIS boss Winston Garcia is careful. After all, it is not his own money. He must look after other people's money. Or perhaps, and this I only heard from stockbrokers, the GSIS is afraid of the stock market, thinking that it bites or something.

* * *

BUT whatever is its reason, funny or just plain silly, the GSIS, under this cute administration of Gloriaetta, does not want to touch the stock market.

Now word goes around banking that the GSIS already has a shortlist of local fund managers which it wants to hire. Again, I said "local," as in Pinoy. The GSIS is looking at four of them.

They are all topnotch local financial institutions. But just when the GSIS is about to choose its portfolio manager, guess who drops by unannounced. It's the World Bank.

Isn't that weird? Just like that, even as the stock market is getting more active, the World Bank stops the whole thing.

***

OF course local bankers can think of thousands of reasons why the World Bank is now telling GSIS to abort the process.

For one, the World Bank helped the GSIS in developing the concept. The GSIS perhaps never ever tapped any service from the outside before. It is a ... well, "virgin."

That alone, particularly in this country, should entitle the World Bank to oversee the whole process, perhaps to make it as transparent as the outfit of Rosanna Roces.

But then again, in various biddings for government contracts, super world bodies like the World Bank are known to push for their own, er, "troops."

***

IT'S not as if we do not have enough good Pinoy fund managers. We have a lot of them, and they are working for foreign financial firms here and abroad.

Look, during the short time of Chuckie Arellano at the SSS, all of two and a half years, the pension fund made some P30 billion in the stock market. And Chuckie learned the investment ropes in local banks. He was the executive vice president of Far East Bank, taking care of the trust fund. Besides, getting foreign companies to do the job does not assure us that it will be done right.

***

IT happened in the Davao airport project. The Asian Development Bank insisted that our government should get foreign consultants.

Hired by the Department of Transportation and Communications for the Davao airport project was an American design firm. It then proceeded to botch the project.

And so word goes around that, perhaps, the World Bank wants a hand in the GSIS bidding, with special consideration for some foreign firms. It is all part of this thing called globalization. This means, everything which makes money in this country, we have to share with foreign groups.

***

HAPPILY, in this liberalization and globalization thing, some giant foreign companies are content just with getting everything. They are not just getting pieces of business here and there. They are totally boxing out the locals altogether. That is taking place not only in manufacturing. It happens even in banking. The giant foreign banks are displacing the locals in one field after another. Not too long ago, for instance, local banks had a hold on the market for government securities. Not anymore, they don't.

***

THOSE government papers were denominated in pesos. Local banks had all the pesos. By definition, the foreign banks never had a lot of pesos.

Today, big foreign banks like HSBC, Deutsche Bank, and ABN-Amro are the lords of the government securities market. They beat everybody else in the bidding. Just where exactly do those foreign banks get their pesos? It remains a deep mystery to me for one particular reason.

And that is, well, for those foreign banks, the only source of pesos is the local banking system. So they use the locals' money to kill the locals. That, in another time and place, could be called colonialism.

***

AND so giant foreign banks, thanks to the cooperation of some people in this cute administration, are getting a lot of business from the locals. It simply means that they are also making the profit, which should be small compared to what they make overseas. But still they cannot leave it to the locals.

In the same way, and I am now back to the GSIS item, the World Bank cannot leave the GSIS portfolio management contract to the locals. I bet you the entire inheritance of my neighbor, when the GSIS finally resumes the bidding, it will have to add some hard-to-pronounce names to the shortlist.

***

LAST week, former Sen. Jovito Salonga sent Gloriaetta a four-page letter. Jovy was talking as adviser and trustee of the group called Bantay Katarungan. The letter is not good news to a high-profile influential group in this cute administration. It does not say good things about their chicken (you know, *manok*)!

You see, up for grabs is one slot in the Supreme Court. Recently, Justice Vicente Mendoza, who is a constitutional law expert, retired.

That influential group, based on word in legal circles, is pushing for Supreme Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr. But in their letter, Jovy and company have no kind words for Velasco, except perhaps about his "good academic and legal credentials."

***

JOVY told Gloriaetta that Bantay Katarungan already submitted their evaluation of the same Velasco last year.

That was the time Gloriaetta was going to fill up more vacancies in the Supreme Court. Three of the aspirants to the present vacancy were also considered then. Among them was Velasco. On his background, Jovy's letter partly read:

"Among the justices themselves—as found by our Executive Director—whether in the Supreme Court or in the Court of Appeals, the aspirant has been following up cases.

"We have no doubt about the competence of the aspirant. But we regret we cannot endorse his nomination." Hmm. Let's see which position prevails, Jovy's or that of the "influential" group.

***

IN fairness to Velasco, Jovy's letter said, his group assigned their so-called Student Monitors and Supervising Lawyers to verify their findings last year.

Well, it was possible, the letter said, that they were a bit to harsh in their evaluation of the aspirant last year. It turns out that, this time around, nobody can still question the competence of Velasco. The report still praised his expertise. But the report had a lot of bad things to say about him while he was still in various offices such as the Commission on Settlement of Land Disputes. Hmm.

One incumbent justice of the Court of Appeals was quoted in the letter as saying about Velasco, "every time he has an affair, there is always a certain Chinese who acts as the host."

Gov't to cancel...

From page B1

the schedule and this could be used to replace all or part of the $900-million sovereign requirement.

The government has already reduced its peso borrowing in the third quarter. As early as May, the Treasury had advised the market that it would reduce by P500 million the size of the weekly bond auctions to P3 billion.

Having scrapped the two-year bond sale at the start of July, the auction committee led by the Treasury would sell bonds carrying tenors of two, three, four and five years toward the end of the month.

In August and September, the four auctions each month would be for treasury bonds maturing in two, three, four and five years.

Compared to the previous quarter, the bond tenors for the third quarter are shorter.

The government had sold more than P100 billion worth of retail bonds since May 2001. Last year, P23.27 billion worth of three-year and P39.66 billion worth of five-year RTBs were sold in June.

Ideal RCBC prexy

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

TODAY is the last day of Val Araneta as president of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

Based on the usual economical pronouncement issued by RCBC, vice chair Cesar Virata will assume most of Araneta's functions while RCBC chair Rizalino Navarro conducts yet another search for a new president.

Before the RCBC presidency looks like a revolving door, aspirants may well take into advisement what taipan Alfonso Yuchengco wants in a bank president.

In addition to the usual competence and integrity factors, the ideal RCBC president must possess, according to the pro-AY grapevine, social graces, public speaking skills, and sartorial elegance. In short, Mr. AY is looking for a junior AY.

It would greatly help if the candidate has a good voice and has a penchant and stamina for karaoke singing, as the AY dinners are famous for their postprandial vocal exercises. Taking private piano lessons would certainly help, preferably from Mr. AY's favorite pianist. One word of caution though—the candidate must not get too familiar with the pianist.

Lastly, the putative president must know how to get along well with Mr. AY's tough daughters, a most delicate diplomatic task, if you ask their brother AYIII.

But then again, the secret to the AY daughters is actually the same secret in any successful domestic arrangement—the man always has the last word, and it is always "Yes, Ma'm."

Class of 55 regroups

AFTER being shocked and awed by Edsa II, the high school Class 55 of Ateneo has finally regained its bearings, and has even captured the Rotary Club of Manila to help advance the cause of their dearly detained classmate.

Leading members of Class 55 have been elected to key positions of Asia's first Rotary club, starting with ex-Customs chief Ricardo Ampil as president, ex-Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma as vice president, Central Colleges president Cipriano Reyes as chair of the music committee, and Fontana Resort nominee Jesus Pineda as chair of the program committee.

Last Thursday, the Rotarians invited new Erap lawyer Alan Paguia as luncheon speaker at Erap's favorite hotel, the Manila Hotel. There the lawyer used the lectern to again swipe at the Supreme Court.

This Thursday, the club will have another Erap classmate as speaker, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who has understandably been avoiding the fortnightly Thursday Class 55 gatherings at the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

In addition to Buenaventura, SBMA Administrator Felicito Payumo has been a lamented no-show at the Veterans reunion. But then again, Payumo is only an honorary member of Class 55, having attended the Jesuit school only in college, where he linked up with the then incoming freshmen from Class 55.

EZ does it

IT now looks with more certainty that it is the 30-percent bloc of haciendero Enrique Zobel in BusinessWorld that has been put up for sale.

According to the grapevine, the newspaper staff was formally informed by the BusinessWorld front office the other week that it had received information that a bloc of the news-

COCKTALES/ B6

Foreign funds eye stake in Lopez firm

By Elena R. Torrijos

THREE to four foreign infrastructure funds are interested in buying at least part of the interests of the Lopez group in Manila North Tollways Corp., developer of the $371-million Manila North Expressway project.

An official of Benpres Holdings Corp., the flagship holding company of the Lopez family, said that Credit Suisse First Boston, an international investment firm tapped as the Philippine firm's financial adviser, was discussing with the funds, which invest solely in infrastructure projects.

The official declined to name the funds but said one was based in Hong Kong and another was based in Thailand.

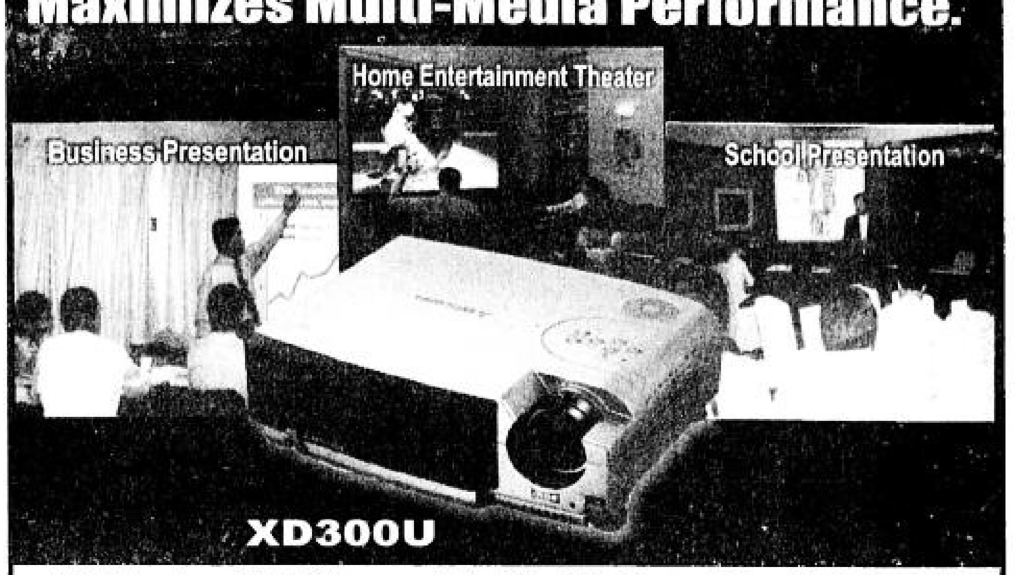
The Benpres official said that discussions were still in the early stages and that among the top considerations of the funds was whether they could be comfortable enough with the Philippine regulatory environment, particularly the government's political will to ensure tollway rates would provide an adequate return for the project.

Benpres and First Philippine Holdings Corp., the holding company for power generation assets of the Lopezes, have a combined 67-percent stake in MNTC through First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp.

FPIDC is the Lopez group's investor-company in MNTC. Other shareholders of FPIDC include Egis Projects S.A. of France with 13.9 percent, state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. with 2.5 percent, and Leighton Asia Ltd. of Australia with 16.5 percent.

Earlier, Benpres executive vice president and chief finance officer Angel Ong said there were potential buyers of FPIDC's stake in the tollway project.

"We would like to enhance first the value of non-core assets through improvement in its financial conditions or operations. At the forefront is the financial close of MNTC project financing, ensuring the completion of the North Luzon Tollways by the first quarter of 2005," Ong Said.



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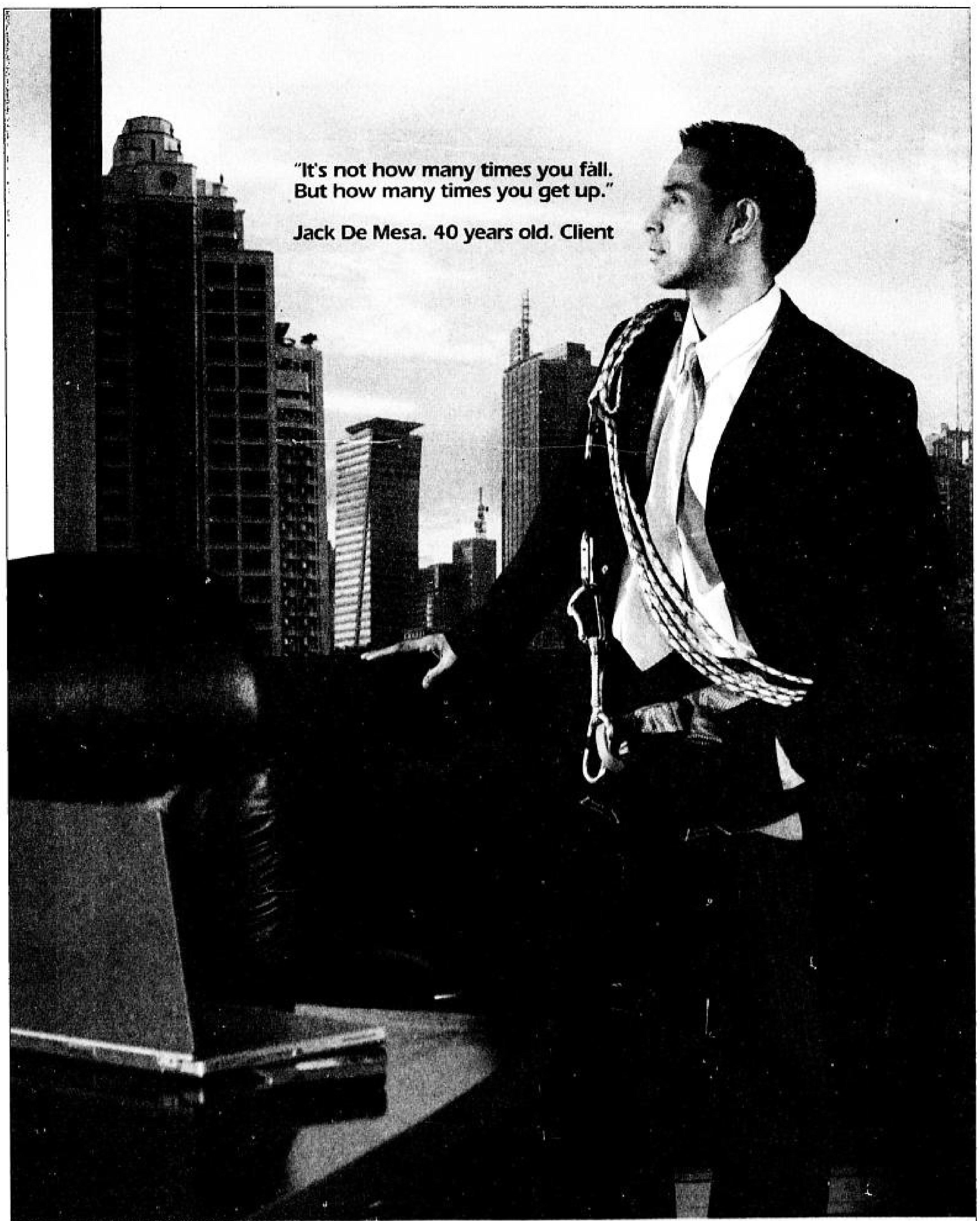

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BIR bars execs, employees from tax-credit dealings

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has issued a memorandum prohibiting all BIR officials and employees from engaging in any transaction that deals with the sale or purchase of tax credit certificates.

The move came after a joint task force formed by the Department of Finance and the National Bureau of Investigation apprehended three individuals, including a BIR employee, for allegedly selling spurious TCCs.

In the recently issued Memorandum Circular No. 36-2003, Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said he has directed all BIR personnel to refrain from acting as brokers in the selling and purchase of TCCs. The BIR said the prohibition was a move to protect both the BIR and prospective TCC buyers from anomalous transactions.

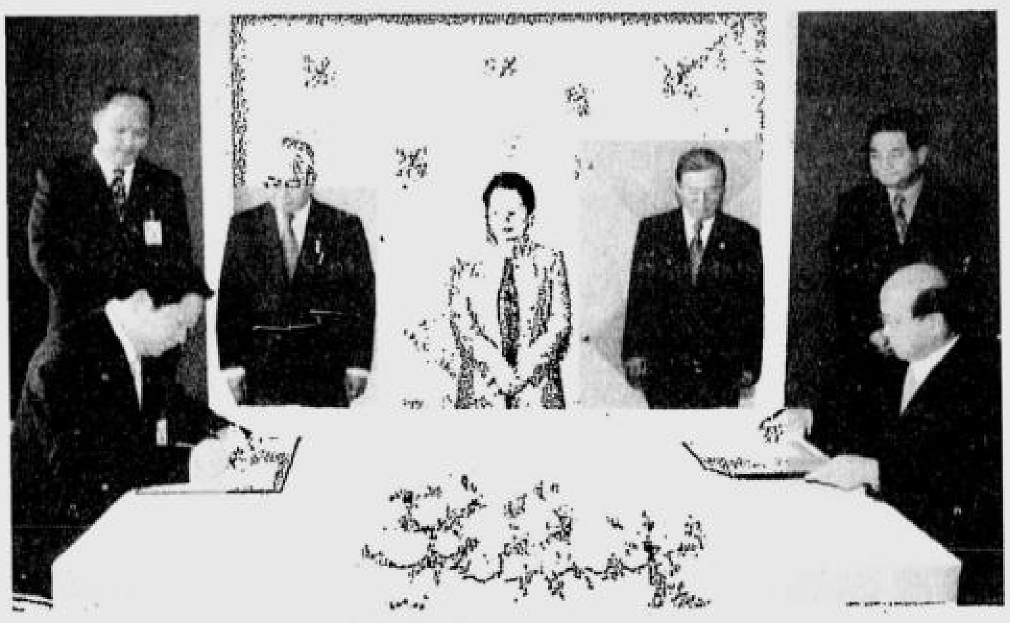
Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said people buying TCCs tend to be less cautious if the certificates were brokered by BIR personnel in the belief that they could not be fraudulent. On the other hand, BIR employees might be tagged in criminal and administrative liabilities should the TCC they brokered turned out to be fraudulent. "No more BIR employee is allowed to be involved in the selling or buying of TCCs to avoid the same incident," Parayno said in an interview.

He said that in order to fulfill the role of brokering or advising on the sale or purchase of TCCs, the BIR has created a TCC Revalidation Committee-Office of the Commissioner where all TCC transactions should go through. The committee is composed of members of the Congressional-Legislative Office. Parayno said the personnel from Congress would be temporarily assigned in the committee until Congress resumes its sessions.

The memorandum requires that all current holders of TCCs present their certificates to the committee from July 1 to July 31, 2003 for purposes of revalidation. The BIR said TCCs not revalidated within the period may still be used, but would have to undergo a prior extensive investigation.

Transferred TCCs, according to the BIR, will be validated through an authorization database before a tax debit memo is issued. Also, all prospective TCC buyers would have to secure from the committee an authorization to purchase before they are allowed to buy a TCC.

Aside from these measures, the commissioner has also advised the public, through RMO No. 22-2003, to report to the BIR anyone selling a Maxim Operating Corp. TCC with a tax credit amount of P17 million. The order came after reports that syndicates were involved in selling the fake TCC.



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Empire East Land Holdings Inc. and Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd. signed a memorandum of agreement for the joint development of a P4-billion medium-cost housing project in the Pasig-Cainta area. Daewoo Engineering, a leading international general contractor, will own a 40-percent stake in the joint venture company, which will build 6,000 housing units in the Pasig-Cainta area over the next 10 years. Empire East Land chair Andrew Tan (left) and Daewoo Engineering president and CEO Sang-Kook Nam (right) are shown during the signing ceremony witnessed by President Macapagal. Also shown are (from left) Empire East Land president Anthony Charlemagne Yu, Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Juanito Jarasa, South Korean Ambassador to the Philippines Son Sang-Ha and Daewoo Engineering executive vice president Chullho Lieu.

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Insular Life posts 52% growth in revenues

INSULAR Life's total premium revenues for the first five months of the year reached P3.1 billion, a 52-percent growth over premiums for the same period last year.

It said premiums from new business reached P1.4 billion, exceeding its 2003 target of P1.3 billion by 5 percent. The company attributed the growth to its dollar-denominated endowment plan, the Dollar Earner, which was offered from October 2002 to April 2003.

The company said it has concentrated on government securities for its new investments in the first half of the year to boost revenues. New investments as of May totaled P2 billion, of which around P900 million went to short-term money market placements, P700 million to government bonds, P160 million in long-term, fixed-rate treasury notes, P160 million in retail treasury bonds and P100 million in treasury bills.

The company said this was in line with its investment strategy of shifting its investible funds to fixed-income instruments. In the second half of last year, the company extended new term loans to Ayala Corp., Globe Telecom, Asian Terminals, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

Roots of the rebellion

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

RECENTLY, PDI ran a letter from Abdur Rashid Santos and Antonio Farhan Flordeliza. They said the Moro struggle was triggered by the "Moros' sufferings and insecurities associated with their economic marginalization and destitution, political domination and incapacity, the inroads and constraints on their identity (which includes their faith, territory and culture), and the threats (consummated and potential) to their individual and collective existence or security."

The Communists also use poverty to justify their rebellion. Joma Sison believed in the Maoist tenet that if the communists controlled the countryside, the cities would fall like ripe fruit. So, the New People's Army was set up as the protector of the poor in the distant barrios. But the NPA never controlled the countryside. The cities were never threatened.

Even when communism collapsed worldwide, Sison insisted that poverty was the root of his rebellion. But stripped of its ideological underpinnings, the NPA has deteriorated into a network of extortionist gangs. The protector of the poor is now the heaviest burden of the poor. The NPA exacts the 10-percent revolutionary tax on everything that grows and moves in the barrios. The tax is even slapped on sari-sari store sales, public school teachers' salaries and church collections.

On a different vein, the poverty of the Moros is supposed to be the root of the Moro rebellion. But unlike Sison, who wants to establish a communist regime for the entire country, the MILF dangles the pipe dream of a Bangsa Moro to attract the poor.

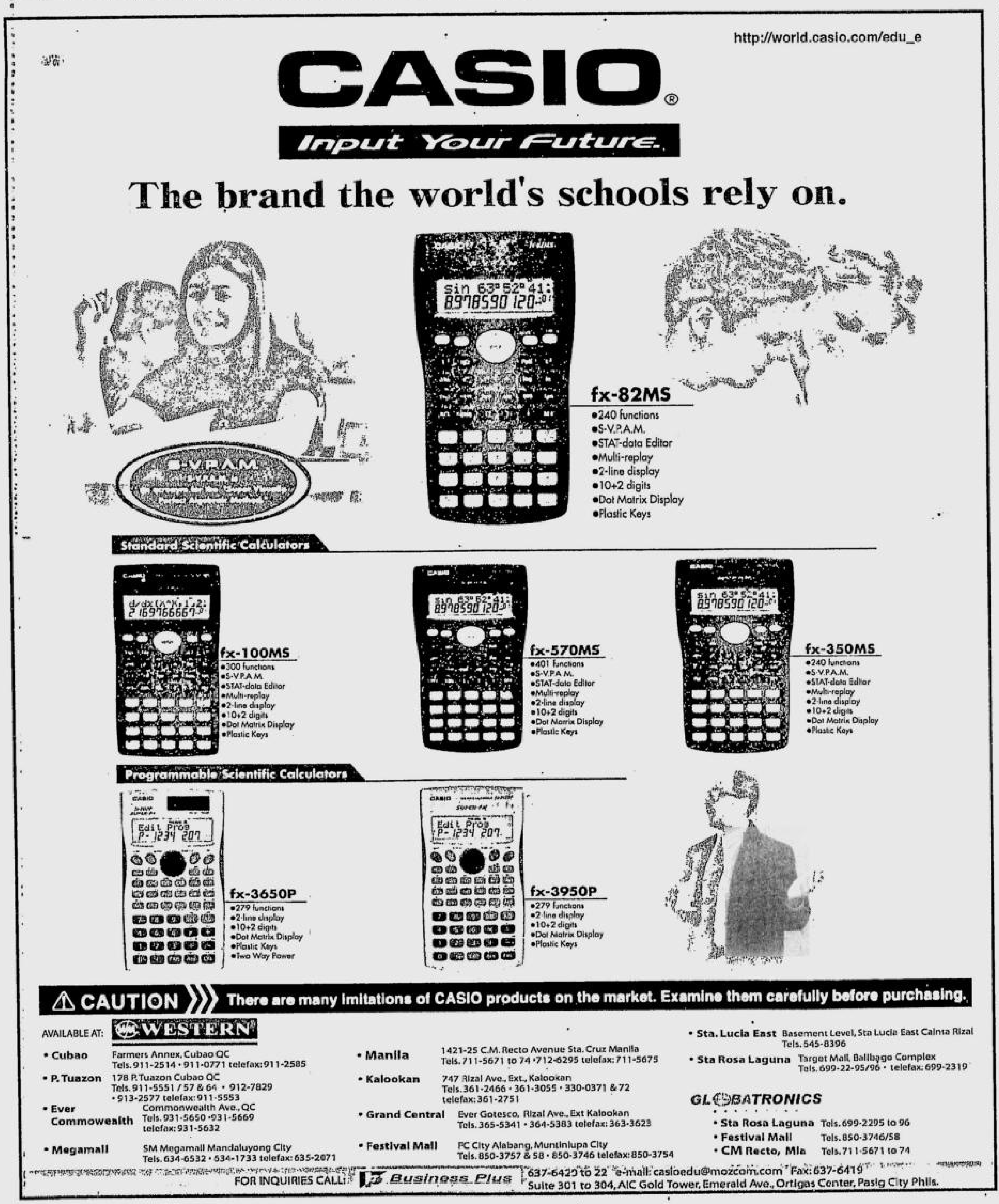
Poverty is not the root of the communist and Moro rebellions. There are countries much poorer than the Philippines—Bangladesh, for one—where there are no rebellions. The root of the communist rebellion here is that there is a small bunch of dreamers, now aging, who continue to think Communism is the savior of the poor. The root of the Moro rebellion is that there is small bunch of dreamers who think an independent Islamic state is the best way out of poverty. In either rebellion, poverty is not the root, but the fertile ground in which the roots thrive. And in either rebellion, the poor have become the unwilling victims.

Sison's rebellion has completely failed. His NPA is nothing but a network of bandits or *tulisanes*. As for the MILF rebellion, the Moros are fighting for the wrong cause, as did all their forebears. Instead of fighting in the hills, the Moros should learn to engage in legitimate trade and commerce. They should learn to compete in the *palengke*. It is more fun, and more profitable, than kidnapping and terrorism.

Rashid Santos and Farhand Flordeliza should look into the reasons why insurance companies consider the Moro as uninsurable. Why is there not a single Moro among the more than 30,000 insurance agents deployed all over the country? Why is there not a single Moro employed in any insurance office? Marginalization? Or sound business practice?

As long as the Moros blame everyone else for their poverty, they will never get out of the hole they dug for themselves. First, the Moros should come to grips with their terrible past when, as pirates and slave raiders, they ravaged the entire archipelago for almost three centuries during the Spanish regime.

Then, they should realize that a plow is a better implement than a rifle. Finally, the Moros should accept that they cannot shoot their way into the mainstream of Filipino society. Then, we will see the beginnings of lasting peace.



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Japan firms give poor mark to RP business climate

By Michelle V. Remo

JAPANESE firms operating in the country have downgraded their assessment of the Philippine business climate to -5.1 points in June, or a two-point reduction from the previous month's -3.1, with the pull-down coming mainly from investors in the electric and electronic machinery industry.

This was the result of the business sentiment survey conducted this month by the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro), the Japanese government's agency tasked to oversee Japanese businesses in various countries, including the Philippines.

According to Jetro, business sentiment dropped in all sub-industries in the manufacturing sector, with a huge 9.8-point decrease to -9.8 points in the electric and electronic machinery. The big drop in the said sub-industry was attributed to the slowdown in imports and exports of electronics in the previous months in the light of the decline in the global demand for electronics products brought about by the effects of the US-Iraq war and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak.

The Semiconductors and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) said exports of electronics in the first quarter decreased by 0.7 percent from year-ago level.

Sentiment in the oil, chemicals, steel and metal sub-industry also fell to zero from 4.7 points; transport machinery, from 3.3 to -3.2; other manufacturing businesses, from -2.2 to -5.9; and transport communication, commerce and services, from 25 points to zero.

Japanese business sentiment in the construction and real estate sub-industry improved from -50 to -18.8, and in other non-manufacturing businesses, from -33.3 to zero.

Despite the decline in the assessment of the local business climate, the country fared better than other countries that were badly hit by SARS. The -0.5 score for the Philippines was better than Singapore's -34.7, Malaysia's -25.4, Indonesia's -21.3. Thailand, however, scored a much-better 10.4 points.

The business sentiment index for all countries posted a drop in June from the previous month, still mainly due to the economic impact of SARS.

In a separate survey, Jetro said 41.9 percent of Japanese firms operating in the Philippines said SARS negatively affected on their businesses, 4.7 percent said the SARS scare gave positive effects on their business, and 53.4 percent said SARS did not affect them at all.

Compared with other countries, the 41.9 percent of respondents in the Philippines who said SARS had negative effect on their businesses was still better than Malaysia's 48 percent, Singapore's 74.9 percent, China's 78.4 percent and Hong Kong's 75.8 percent. Singapore, China and Hong Kong were the most badly hit by the SARS outbreak.

The countries whose Japanese business locators were least affected by SARS compared with the Philippines were Thailand and Indonesia.

Nat'l gov't to float 10-year bonds

From page B2

well as the documentation for the bond float.

The swift approval considered the precarious level of the country's dollar reserves and a rising deficit in the balance of payments, both seen to be strained further if maturing foreign debts are paid with pesos converted into dollars.

The Napocor's $500-million bond issue would have been used to pay maturing dollar debts of the same amount. If the funds were sourced locally, it would drain the country's gross international reserves, which stood at $15.98 billion as of end-May.

A weak GIR position tends to encourage speculation against the local currency.

The Napocor bonds scrapped last week was to be solely handled by Citibank. When the financing burden shifted to the national government, it brought in two of its most reliable underwriters to help, according to sources.

Sources said the upcoming global bond issue would carry a yield of 7.5 to 9 percent, a level that includes a spread of about four to five points on prevailing benchmark rates.

The cut in US interest rates last week had pushed down the benchmark rates and should make this round of Philippine borrowings cheaper compared to the 10-year bonds sold in January that fetched a yield of 9.509 percent. In November, similar Philippine bonds were sold at a coupon rate of 9.125 percent.

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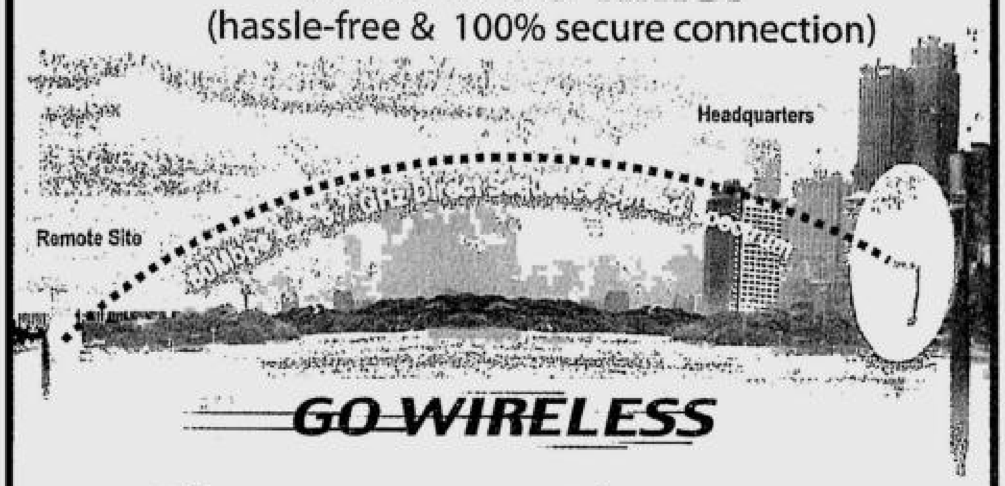

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₱75-B PROBLEM

PNB to name financial adviser on disposal of bad loans, assets

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE National Bank is set to appoint within a month a financial adviser that would help the bank craft a comprehensive strategy on how to dispose of its non-performing assets--bad loans and acquired assets--amounting to roughly P75 billion.

PNB executive vice president Federico Cadiz Jr. said the bank was classifying its NPA portfolio into asset pools, with the prospective financial adviser to draw up an appropriate strategy for each pool.

"We are finalizing the terms (of the engagement)," Cadiz said. The financial adviser is a foreign group with an existing tie-up with a local partner.

PNB has about P30 billion in acquired assets and P45 billion in non-performing loans.

Under a "total NPA resolution strategy," the financial adviser could recommend what assets should be disposed through the creation of a special purpose vehicle, what assets could be used to back up "rehabilitation bonds," and what assets could be sold through the bank's own efforts.

At the same time, PNB has tapped Richard Ellis to conduct auctions of somewhere from P3 billion to P5 billion worth of the bank's acquired assets in Metro Manila and nearby provinces consisting primarily of residential units.

Ellis would conduct monthly auctions of residential property with the first auction to be held in August.

Meanwhile, a senior PNB official said that the bank was looking at posting P100 million in profit in the first six months of this year, an acceleration of its full 2003 target of the same amount.

After posting P53 million in profit in the first quarter—the first after five years of losses—PNB at the start of the second quarter had initially seen its remittance business and assets sales affected by the Iraq war. Following the early resolution of the war, remittance volume and sales bounced back.

PNB's profit targets are based largely on how well it can meet asset sales targets and the movement of interest rates as low interest rates would provide better margins for the bank.

PNB's first-quarter profit was the initial result of its rehabilitation program agreed upon by the national government and the Lucio Tan group on May 3, 2002. For the period, the bank grossed P3.04 billion in revenues, 58 percent of which came from interest income.

Actual interest income went down slightly by one percent due to reduced loans receivable level but this was more than compensated for by income from other sources, which jumped by P255 million or 25.8 percent to P1.2 billion in the first quarter from the same period last year. The income came primarily from fee-based business and recoveries from acquired assets. Income was also boosted by the P16-billion increase in the bank's low-cost deposits.

PSE to launch $-denominated equities trading on July 16

Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange will finally launch this July 16 a landmark dollar-denominated trading (DDT) facility, seen as a prelude to the cross-border trading of equities.

In a memorandum issued on Friday, the PSE said stock traders would soon be able to post and view DDT orders and sales using the same trading terminal.

Under the facility, equities listed offshore can be traded in dollar denominations simultaneously with the morning peso trading session.

The facility aims to eliminate foreign exchange risks on trade transaction of securities listed abroad. It also seeks to provide greater flexibility in the present trading infrastructure by allowing multiple currencies for trade transaction.

The first issue which will be traded in the DDT will be Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. It will be represented by the stock symbol DTEL.

Other stocks that will likewise be traded in the DDT in the future are Manulife Financial Corp. and Sun Life Financial of Canada.

The introduction of the facility, based on a PSE briefing paper, can also provide an alternate arbitrage environment without the difficulties currently encountered in American Depository Receipts/Global Depository receipts and Bangko Sentral registration reporting requirements.

"This will lessen the vulnerability of the Philippine stock market to international shocks," the PSE said.

The PSE has been planning to launch the DDT over the last two years.

Cocktales...

From page B3

paper shareholdings had been offered to outside parties.

The speculation is that the Yuchengcos, through their RCBC vice chair and incidentally also BusinessWorld chair Cesar Virata, were one of the parties that had expressed interest in the EZ bloc.

Virata, as well as EZ's son Iñigo, who represents EZ in the newspaper board, have lately been grumbling about BusinessWorld's—how would we say it without offending our journalistic colleagues—diminished gravitas.

It is not clear—EZ was on a holiday in Spain last week—whether the 30-percent bloc is directly under EZ's name or had been placed in a corporate vehicle. If the second arrangement is correct, then it is simply a matter of assuming ownership of the corporation, and not the ticklish retransfer of the BusinessWorld shares themselves.

According to the grapevine, one party that had been approached would only come in if the undetermined Locsin shareholding, which has been melded into the 70-percent bloc controlled by the paper's provident fund, would be offered along with the EZ bloc.

Apparently, the theory is that the Locsin holding is the crucial swing bloc that would deliver majority control of the business daily.

In any case, BusinessWorld issued a statement on Friday, after news of the potential sale came out in the INQUIRER, saying that the 70-percent fund-owned bloc of the paper is not for sale and that, moreover, the provident fund has a right of first refusal over the EZ shareholding.

Heard through the grapevine

SOCIETY columnist Maurice Arcache will start a twice-a-week column with the INQUIRER starting tomorrow.

Apparently, the first Arcache column is a listing of 30 most "invited" but supposedly most unwelcome guests in high society/business/embassy (particularly German Embassy) functions. In other words, a list of smellfeasts.

We have absolutely nothing to do with the list even if a certain publisher and his walking wallet lobbyist figure prominently among the 30.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Cautious trading seen

From page B1

ments both in the corporate and economic sides should induce market players to take profit from the recent run-up," Cruz said.

"On top of these, the continued depreciation of the peso should also weigh down sentiment," Cruz noted.

The peso closed at 53.64 to the dollar on Friday or 0.63 percent weaker than a week ago after the US Federal Reserve slashed its policy rates by 25 basis points to a 45-year low of one percent.

Cruz said he expected the peso to slide back to the 54:$1 levels over the next few weeks, thus hitting blue chips with dollar debts.

Government's expectation that the second quarter growth likely faltered compared to the first quarter was also casting bearish sentiment on the market, he said.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief market strategist of Banco De Oro Universal Bank, said the market might be nearing the bottom.

"Chart-wise, Friday's close at 1,236.60 suggests that a near-term bottom is in place at the week's low of 1,199.47 level. A break above the 1,270 is needed to confirm the bottom," Ravelas said.

"Failure to confirm could call for further losses toward the 1,150-1,170 range," he said.

For its part, BPI Securities said the market was expected to remain mixed this week.

"A period of consolidation is expected given the strong gains posted last week. Investors will be looking for confirmation of earnings expectations, which have been built into current market prices. Whether or not current valuations will be sustained will depend on a large extent on macroeconomic and corporate results for the first half," BPI Securities said.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 27, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	18.5	19.5	323,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46.5	45.5	46.5	488,300
China Banking Corp.	725	725	725	725	7,030
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	33	32	32	94,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	30	810,000
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.5	15,800
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	27.5	28	7,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11	11	11	11	5,600
Security Bank Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.25	35,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1480	1450	1480	2,530
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	70,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1080	1060	1080	950
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	28,100
Diversified Fin. Network	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.76	0.74	0.74	2,090,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	610	615	610	615	58,470
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	890,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.05	0.043	0.047	18,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.44	5,070,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	560	565	560	565	187,530
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	4,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10.5	10.5	10	10.25	511,400
Manila Electric Co. B	15.25	15.25	15	15	714,600
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2	2	1,548,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	25,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.96	0.94	0.96	5,480,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	757,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	910,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	70,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	90,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.5	310,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	31	94,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	442,300
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	67,100
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	752,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	75,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.18	0.18	370,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	50,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.75	4.8	1,867,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	3,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	25,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.64	1.68	56,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	650,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	15,830,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	590,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	780,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13	13.25	12.75	12.75	1,134,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Ionics Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.79	0.79	310,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	1,030,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	17,340,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.33	53,970,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	2,720,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	16,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	300,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	12,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.95	1	0.95	1	160,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	350,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	67,000
Pryce Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,270,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	209,300
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.56	9,530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	150,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	1,100,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	441,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
WGA - Preferred	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	14,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	550	550	550	550	1,730
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	4,147,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	170,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	2,130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.185	0.165	0.185	9,270,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.245	0.23	0.24	14,560,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	790,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	13,050,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.14	2.16	2.14	2.16	320,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.155	0.155	0.14	0.14	680,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	26,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	5.9	6.1	6,631,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	32,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	30,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	410,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	9,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	100,000

CURRENCIES

June 27, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.875503	1.000000	53.440000
Japan	Yen	0.007335	0.008378	0.447700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.454386	1.661200	88.774500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112271	0.128236	6.852900
Switzerland	Franc	0.647802	0.739919	39.541300
Canada	Dollar	0.645890	0.737735	39.424600
Singapore	Dollar	0.498863	0.569801	30.450200
Australia	Dollar	0.582310	0.665115	35.543700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.322414	2.652661	141.758200
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.233468	0.266667	14.250700
Brunei	Dollar	0.497445	0.568182	30.363600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021021	0.024010	1.283100
UAE	Dirham	0.238375	0.272272	14.550200
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.142200	61.039200
Argentina	Peso	0.314364	0.359066	19.188500
Brazil	Real	0.302732	0.345781	18.478500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134668	0.153818	8.220000
India	Rupee	0.018840	0.021519	1.150000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.230426	0.263193	14.065000
Mexico	New Peso	0.083724	0.095630	5.110500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509903	0.582411	31.124000
Norway	Kroner	0.120763	0.137935	7.371200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015186	0.017346	0.927000
South Africa	Rand	0.115502	0.131926	7.050100
Korea	Won	0.000738	0.000843	0.045000
Sweden	Kroner	0.109219	0.124750	6.666600
Syria	Pound	0.020846	0.023810	1.272400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025377	0.028986	1.549000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000549	0.000627	0.033500

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Alabang B	1 3M	Riviera A	130 000	Valle Verde CC	120,000
Canyon Woods	150 000	Royale Tagaytay	65T		
BUYING:		Club Filipino/Fontana	Pls call	Orchard/Sta Elena	Please call
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Baguio Country Club	650 000	Manila Polo	2 250M	Valley Golf	270
Camp John Hay Golf	320 000	Manila Southwoods 'A'/B	470/550	Wack Wack	6.3M
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Capitol Hills/Celebrity	Pls call	Mimosa Corp	300 000		

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ALABANG "B"	1.5M	PUNTA FUEGO	550K	CANLUBANG	450K
BAGUIO CC	700K	CC SPORTS "A"	200K	CAPITOL HILLS	140K
CALATAGAN "A"	80K	RIVERA "A"	Call now	CC @ TAG	350K
CELEB (INDIV)	175K	S'WOODS "B"	600K	CLUB FILIPINO	140K
CELEB (CORP)	Call now	STA. ELENA "A"	1.4M	FOREST HILLS "A"	150K
FOREST HILLS "A"	200K	SUBIC BAY YACHT	Call now	MLA POLO	2.1M
MLA POLO	2.45M	TAG HLANDS	Call now	MKTI SPORTS "A"	250K
MIMOSA (CORP)	270K	TAG MIDLANDS	750K	VALLEY GOLF	270K

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CC AT TAGAYTAY	10,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
MIMOSA GOLF & CC	10,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30 000
MLA SOUTHWOODS	45 000	WACK WACK	90 000

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CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	-
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	135K
EAGLE RIDGE "A"	-	245K
FONTANA "D"	50K	-
FOREST HILLS "A"	-	155K
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	-	210K
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	10.3M
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	11M	please call
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.300M	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	600K	-
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	please call	-
PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	90K	-
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250K	-
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	-	please call
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	130K	-
SHERWOOD HILLS "C"	500K	-
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1.3M
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	1.4M
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	-	please call
VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	250K
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Alabang Country Club A	1,270,000	-
Baguio Country Club	-	580,000
Camp John Hay	-	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	160,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	-	-
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	150,000
Club Filipino	-	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	370,000/450,000**	220,000
Eastridge B	-	80,000
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000/230,000*/250,000**	175,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,000,000*	11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,325,000	2,000,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	-	210,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	540,000/600,000*	400,000
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	65,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	270,000	-
Orchard Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	220,000	-
Riviera Golf A/C*	340,000*	100,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call*	40,000
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	90,000/Pls. Call*	70,000**
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	-	1,400,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	160,000	-
Subic Golf	130,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	700,000
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	320,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	600,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	-

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,200,000	1,270,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,500,000
Baguio Country Club	620,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"		80,000
Camp John Hay	-	230,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	160,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	185,000
Club Filipino	130,000	190,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	Please Call	170,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	270,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,400,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	110,000
Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	135,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	270,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	150,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,130,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	..1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Tat Filipinas Golf	-	90,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	250,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	6,600,000

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MBTC's $200-M tier-2 notes issue approved

By Clarissa Batino

THE MONETARY Board has approved the application of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. to issue a fresh batch of long-term tier-two notes worth $200 million.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Alberto Reyes said Metrobank would go on a roadshow soon to lure investors into buying the convertible debt notes.

Reyes said half of the proceeds of the planned bond sale would be used to pay an earlier capital issuance worth $100 million. The other half, he said, would be used for investments. The debt notes will have a 10-year tenor.

In December 2001, it sold $100 million in bonds to Singapore-based Dunmore Asset Ltd., a venture capital group. Last year, it sold $130-million worth of tier-two notes.

Metrobank had been using most of the proceeds from the bond issue to buy dollar-denominated Philippine debt papers.

Reyes said the Monetary Board also approved the appointment of Equitable PCI Bank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. by Metrobank as "public trustees" for the tier-two issuance. Both will assist in selling the notes, according to Reyes.

Recently, Equitable PCI also sold $200 million worth of 10-year notes. Next in line is RCBC whose application for a capital bond issue was already approved by the Monetary Board.

The central bank has been encouraging local lenders to tap tier-two capital in lieu of a straight equity investment to help improve their balance sheets in view of their high non-performing assets.

Banks have yet to take advantage of the Special Purpose Vehicle Act passed by Congress in January. This law would give tax incentives to asset management companies that would buy banks' bad loans and foreclosed assets at a discount.

Bankers said the problem involved the valuation of the assets as the management firms had been offering to buy the bad loans and seized properties at 70 to 80 percent discount, which was deemed unfavorable to banks.

Reyes said the Monetary Board also approved the accounting guidelines on the sale of bad assets to the SPVs.

Cement makers get big boost

LOCAL cement manufacturers and industry workers hailed Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas's decision to provide safeguard relief from unfairly traded cement imports that have flooded the country in recent years and caused serious injury to the local cement industry and its workers.

Roxas recently issued the order maintaining the P20.60 per bag additional tariff on imported cement, which was provisionally imposed since December 2001. The tariff was made retroactive to cover the period of its provisional imposition, and will be effective until Dec. 10, 2004. This came after the Court of Appeals ruled recently that the DTI has the final say in the imposition of safeguards under the Safeguard Measures Act (RA 8800) for local industries distressed by the surge of imports.

In a statement, Philcemcor president Rico Alfiler said, "temporary tariff remedies, which have been in place since December 2001, have given cement companies the breathing room necessary to implement key efficiency efforts that will help ensure their long-term viability and the welfare of the communities in which they operate."

"Our neighboring countries have instituted tariff and non-tariff barriers that have effectively kept Philippine cement from entering their markets while their cement industries have been exporting their excess capacities to the Philippines crippling our disadvantaged cement makers," said Alfiler. "We believe that DTI's decision to impose safeguard measures levels the playing field with the cement industries of our Asian neighbors and is the correct policy decision to make given the current regional excess capacity situation we are in."

Alfiler also emphasized that the safeguards imposed will provide the stability necessary for cement producers to continue investing in their people and plants in order to ensure that the Philippine cement industry remains "world-class" in every respect.

"Safeguards protect Filipino jobs. We thank and congratulate Secretary Mar Roxas for his bold and decisive action on the behalf of the Filipino, workers," said Samuel Eslava, secretary general of the Philippine Cement Workers Council (PCWC), the national alliance of workers' unions in the cement industry.

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FFCCI now has an authorized capital of PhP 1.5 Billion and a net worth of close to PhP 1 Billion.

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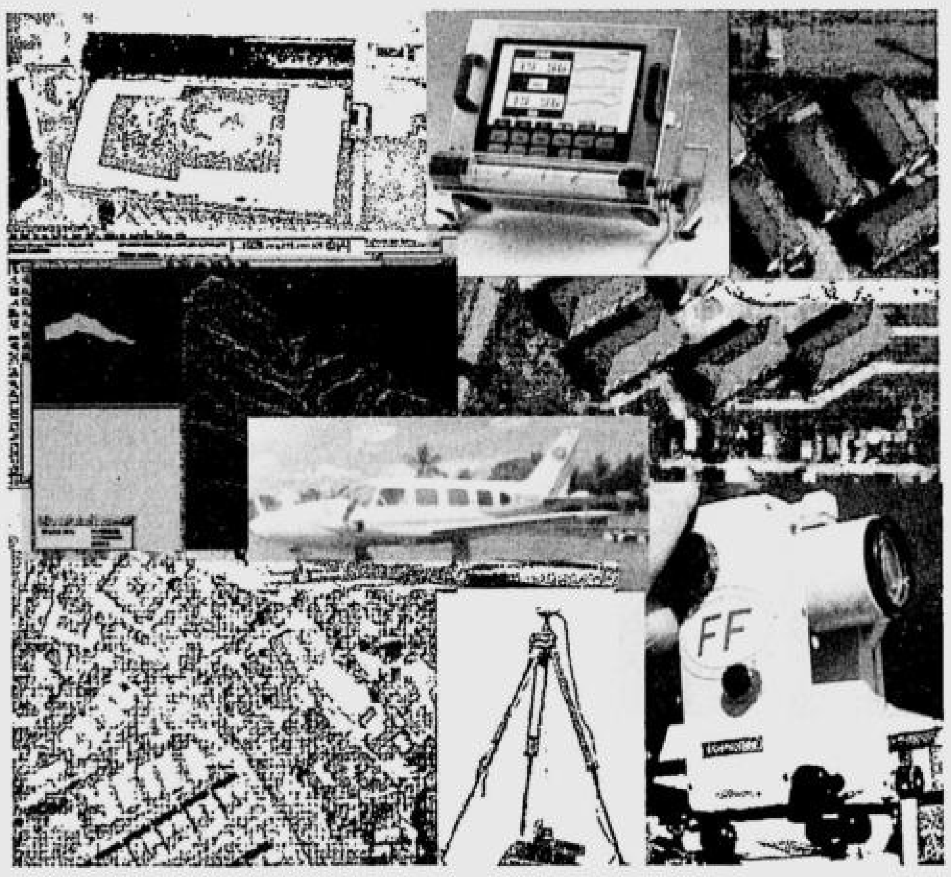

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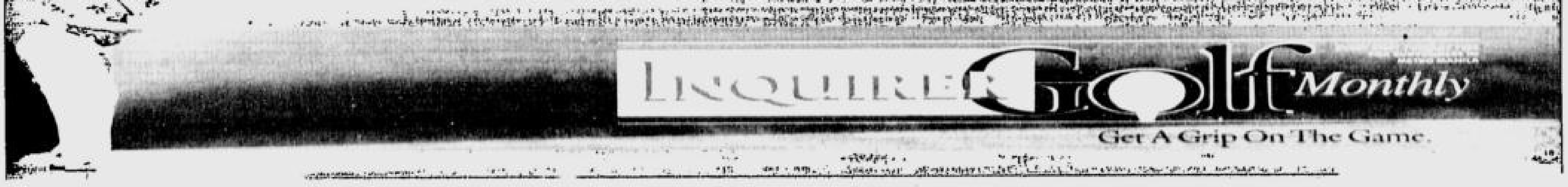


Stagnation, not deflation, worries German gov't

FRANKFURT—Worries about deflation have faded in Germany, leaving the government to wrestle with a more immediate threat: how to speed up an economy that's been stuck in neutral for three politically painful years.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has rounded up his Cabinet this weekend to thrash out ways to stimulate growth, the leading proposal being to move tax cuts forward by a year to pump more money into the economy—though a growing budget deficit makes that difficult.

"It's not just about Germany, but that the strongest economy in Europe, which affects the growth prospects for Europe, has a responsibility not just for itself, but for all of Europe," Schroeder said Friday.

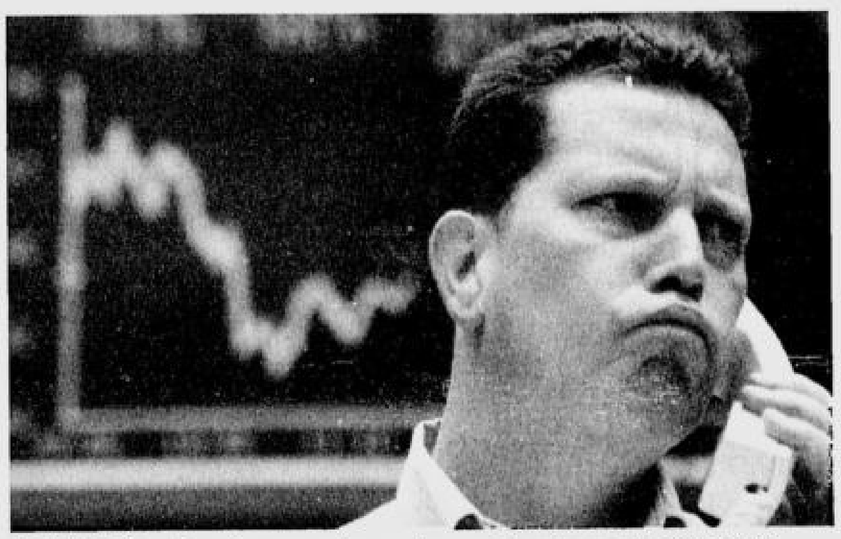
Intense discussion about deflation flared after the International Monetary Fund listed Germany, normally Europe's economic powerhouse, among countries at "high risk" for deflation two months ago. Officials at the US Federal Reserve have contributed to concern with an extensive public debate on the possibility in the United States.

A destructive spiral, deflation gains a stranglehold when prices drop month after month and consumers put off spending because they expect goods to become cheaper. Businesses then can't sell their products and lay off workers, leaving fewer people with spending money.

But Germany's finance minister insisted this week that no such a scenario was in store.

Stagnation—not deflation—is the more likely threat, Hans Eichel said. His dismissal of the threat is supported by most economists, who now rate deflationary risks as low.

Eichel and other officials are contemplating moving up by one year a series of tax cuts spread over 2001-2005. *AP*


A GERMAN trader grimaces as he speaks over the phone at the Frankfurt stock exchange on Friday. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder met with his Cabinet on June 27 aimed at putting the seal on a belt-tightening budget that will hit nearly every sector in a bid to revive Germany's wheezing economy. AFP

German employers-union talks to end strike bog down

BERLIN—German engineering union IG Metall and employers on Saturday broke off talks aimed at ending a strike in eastern Germany that has hurt the country's key car industry.

Negotiations between engineering union IG Metall and employers had restarted on Friday and went on overnight amid hopes a deal could be reached to end a strike over shorter working hours that has lasted for almost four weeks.

"The talks have failed," a spokesman for Gesamtmetall employer federation said after 16-hour long negotiations.

IG Metall left open whether the strikes would continue and said the union would discuss its further strategy on the weekend. It blamed the talks' failure on the employers.

"We think the employers have missed a big chance," IG Metall chief negotiator Hasso Duevel said.

Workers at car and steel plants in the still depressed former communist east have been on strike since early June, demanding a reduction in the working week by three hours to 35 hours, the standard for their western colleagues.

The stoppages have hurt Germany's car industry, which accounts for 10 percent of total industrial output and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Volkswagen AG said on Friday it had stopped production of its top-selling Golf model at its main Wolfsburg plant in western Germany for lack of parts from the east.

The strike has idled BMW AG plants in western Germany this week as parts from strike-hit eastern factories were not delivered, prompting fears the action could dampen already fragile growth in the entire German economy.

BMW has said the strike might make it reconsider the scale of an investment in the eastern city of Leipzig, where it is building a new factory which would create 5,500 jobs.

IG Metall is demanding a gradual cut in hours, which it says is justified by advances in eastern productivity.

The union said they had presented a compromise deal to employers, offering a range of weekly working hours between 35 and 40 hours to take account of companies' different situations on the path to the introduction of the 35-hour week.

The employers also offered a band between 35 and 40 hours, and had offered to reduce the working time by one hour until April 2005. They also wanted to allow new investors to pay 2 percent less in wages for a limited amount of time.

Economists warn that the former east, where the rate of unemployment at about 19 percent is more than double that in the west, risks driving investors further east to neighboring Poland or the Czech Republic if it pushes up labor costs. Reuters

Japan earmarks $7.5B for oil field development plan in Russia

TOKYO—Japan, keen to become a major Russian oil importer, has decided to provide Moscow with aid of up to 900 billion yen ($7.54 billion) to develop an oil field in Eastern Siberia, a Japanese economic daily reported on Saturday.

The planned aid comes after Russia and China vowed last month to beef up cooperation in the oil and gas sector—including the construction of a huge Russia-China oil pipeline.

This has thrown into doubt Japan's hopes for a project to build a pipeline to the Pacific port of Nakhodka to ship oil to Japan, the world's second-largest oil importer.

"The planned aid is aimed at tilting Russian thinking toward building an oil pipeline from eastern Siberia to Nakhodka in the Russian Far East, instead of to Daqing, China," the Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Nikkei) said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi flew to Vladivostok in the Russian Far East on Saturday for talks with Russia officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko.

Kawaguchi plans to discuss with Khristenko the pipeline project on Sunday.

The financial aid, expected to total between 750 billion yen and 900 billion yen, would include unspecified low-interest loans, the Nikkei said.

Japanese officials were not immediately available to comment on the report.

In talks with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in St Petersburg last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin said only that the Nakhodka pipeline, worth some $4-$5 billion, was worth considering.

Analysts have said the pipeline to the Pacific could be built only after 2010, when more oil is found in Eastern Siberia, which may contain as much energy wealth as Western Siberia. *Reuters*

UPS, eBay move to broaden business ties

ORLANDO—Shipping company United Parcel Service Inc. expects to broaden its relationship with online auctioneer eBay Inc. even further than the ties they announced earlier this week, UPS' chief executive said on Friday.

In an interview on the sidelines of eBay Live, a user conference sponsored by UPS in Orlando, Florida, UPS CEO Mike Eskew said the partnership with eBay "has an awful lot more room to grow." Eskew characterized the services unveiled last Monday, like enhanced packing tracking and label creation, as the third phase of a multi-year tie-up.

The fourth phase, Eskew said, would include things like giving buyers more choice over the shipping method used by the seller and making more services available to eBay sellers at the UPS store chain.

Eskew said the nascent effort to re-brand the Mail Boxes Etc. chain, which UPS acquired in 2001, as UPS stores was going well, according to franchisees.

"The volume uptick is great, the flow into stores is great," he said. *Reuters*

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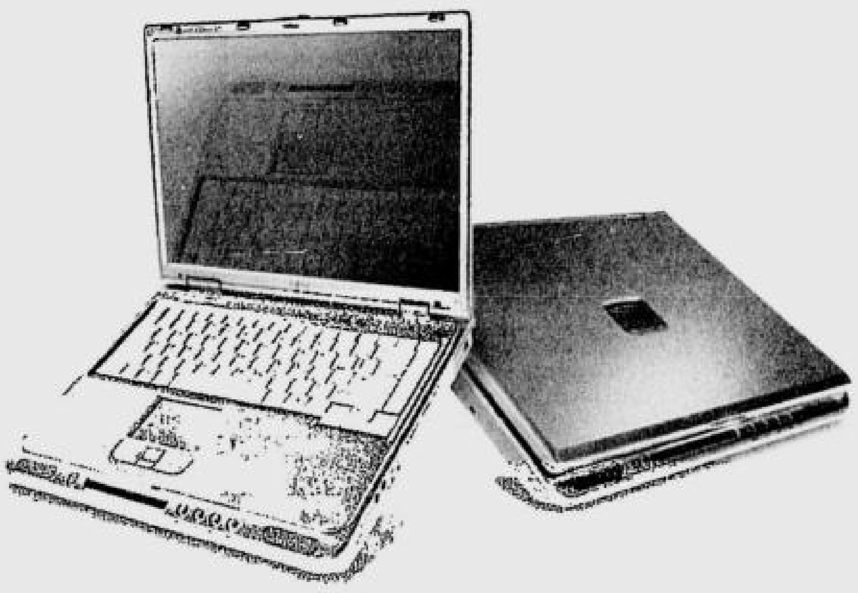

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FLYING TOO HIGH?

Airline stocks take off

NEW YORK—Battered airline stocks have soared in recent months despite industry analysts' warnings that major carriers are more than a year away from profitability.

Aggressive cost-cutting coupled with added revenue from US military contracts benefited the industry during the second quarter which ends Monday, leading some analysts to conclude that losses for the period will be narrower than previously expected.

The fact that American Airlines avoided bankruptcy, at least for the time being, is another reason why industry-wide forecasts have been sunnier lately.

Still, a very important segment of airline customers has yet to return in full force: business travelers. Without them, analysts say, major carriers cannot really mount a rebound.

JP Morgan airline analyst Jamie Baker Thursday reduced his industry-wide loss estimate for the second quarter from $1.2 billion to $950 million. However, he said "the fact remains there's little if any evidence to support the theory that the hibernating business traveler is starting to stir."

For that reason, Baker concluded, "near-term equity values have pulled ahead of fundamentals."

The Dow Jones Airlines Index, which tracks shares of 37 airlines, has climbed nearly 50 percent since late March, outperforming the broader market rally over the same period.

Shares of AMR Corp., the parent company of American Airlines, have risen more than 400 percent since April 1. They were up 42 cents Friday, closing at $11.32 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Delta's stock price has risen 70 percent over the same period, while Continental's has gained 190 percent. Shares of Delta rose 1 cent to close at $14.99 on Friday, while Continental's were down 35 cents to close at $14.90.

The rationale behind much of this buying has been that share prices are at historical lows.

Goldman Sachs airline analyst Glenn Engel's explanation for a "buy" rating on AMR's stock is a case in point.

"Despite quadrupling in price," Engel said in a recent report, "AMR's stock price remains 50 percent below both its year-ago levels and it's post-9/11 lows." He also said that the number of customers paying "full fare"—a reference to business travelers—is on the rise for the first time in three years.

But Blaylock & Partners analyst Ray Neidl cautions that, overall, airline ticket pricing is "very weak" and that talk of potential bankruptcy filings could re-emerge after Labor Day depending on airfare and passenger traffic levels. *AP*

Andean nations, Brazil discuss trade bloc creation

RIONEGRO—Leaders from Andean nations and Brazil met on Friday to deepen commerce in the region and create a South American bloc ahead of a free trade zone that would span the Americas by 2005.

Such a block would allow Latin America to have a stronger bargaining position with the United States to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas, or FTAA, despite deep differences and festering tariff disputes between them, officials said.

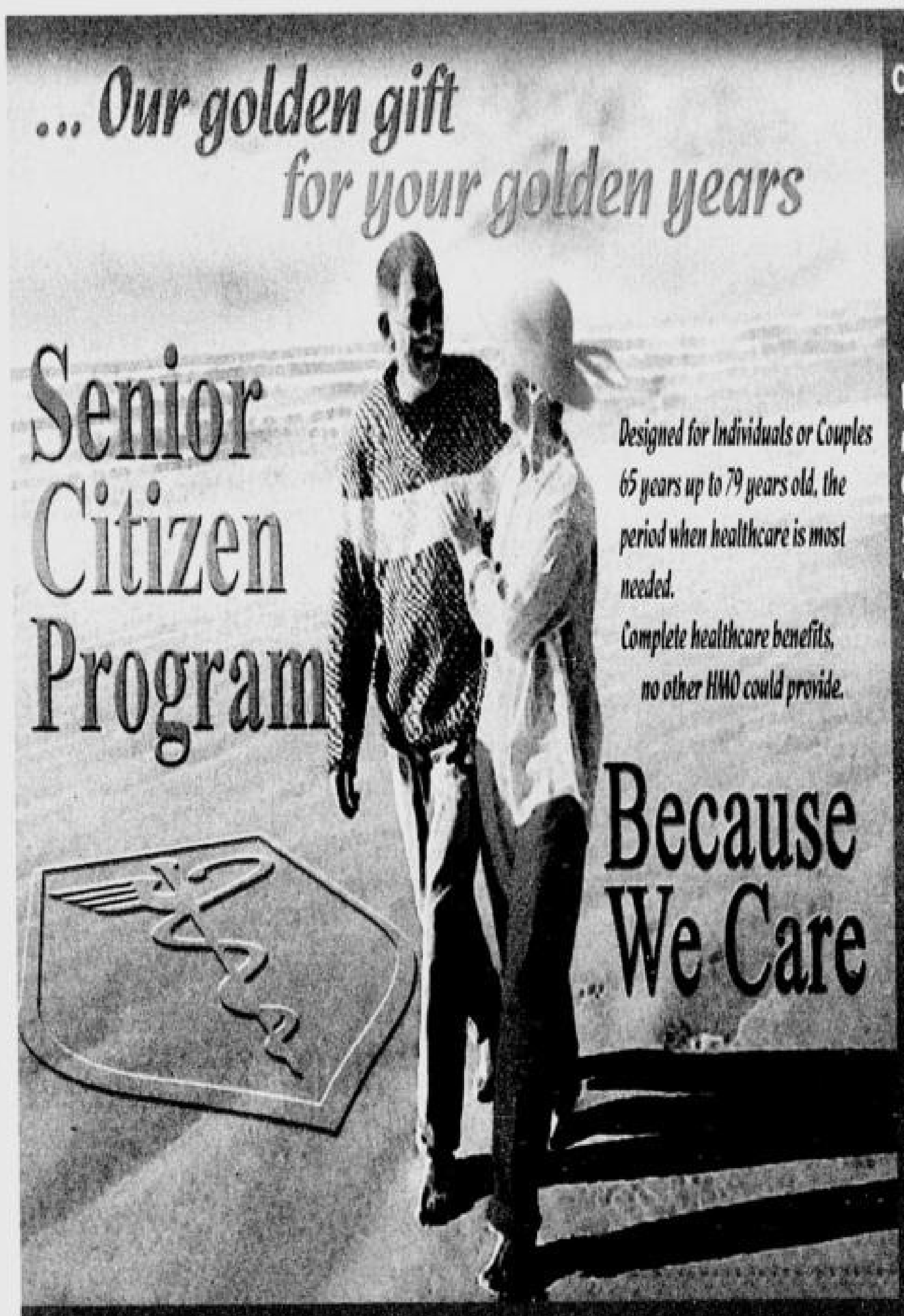
Brazil and the United States co-chair the FTAA.

The two-day meeting of the Andean Nation Community in the Colombian town of Rionegro ushered in Brazil—the largest economy in Latin America—as special guest, with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva calling for stronger integration to strengthen trade negotiations with the United States.

"I want to reiterate once more that our priority on the issue of South American integration is that we are willing to do what it takes to speed up negotiations with the Andean Nation Community and its members," Lula, a former union leader, said upon arriving late on Friday in this mountain town.

Created in 1969, the Andean Nation Community—which groups Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru—is hoping to strike a trade deal with Mercosur, a trade block that includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay by year's end.

Once a fiery leftist orator who decried against the "annexation" of Brazil, Lula met US President George W. Bush on June 20 and sounded an optimistic note on FTAA. *Reuters*



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WHEN most people talk to you about direct marketing, they will tell you about the computers they have, or the consultants they employ, or the software they use. And yes, that stuff is important. And we have those too. Well, except for consultants, they sound too expensive for us to hire. (Truth is, we don't even know how to call ourselves; our business cards don't even have titles and positions.)

We've been DOING DIRECT marketing in the Philippines since 1988, and we're still doing it now (except some people now call it CRM, or Database Marketing, or Relationship Marketing or Loyalty Marketing). Now with the stuff we've done through all those years, we could just as easily have turned ourselves into a fancy consultancy that would tell you how to best use a limited budget, to get you the business results you're looking for. That, after all, is what direct marketing should be about: ensuring that the money you invest in a marketing campaign gets you a return on your investment. (And that, after all, is what we do for a living, every day.)

CAUTION:
HARD-TO-SWALLOW
TRUTH INSIDE

But we've always felt it's more fun to do real work than consultancy-type saliva work. We love wracking our brains on a problem that seems insurmountable. We enjoy thinking up solutions that combine creativity and resourcefulness. More importantly, we grin from ear to ear when we see those responses come in – the mail-ins, the call-ins, the walk-ins – the things that prove to us that our ideas work and that our work made money for our clients.

Which brings us to our SACK and our STICK. Working with the **Philippine Animal Welfare Society** (PAWS), we thought of ways we could raise funds for a charitable organization devoted to caring for stray animals. Tough work in a country where there's lots of stray children too. And where stray dogs, more often than not, end up being eaten if they stray around too long. The knee-jerk advice would have been to look for animal lovers, write to them, and ask for money please.

But we thought to ourselves, there's got to be a better way; and our clients thought, well, there's got to be cheaper way. So we got a sack and a 2 X 2 stick together, and sent it to selected corporations. We told them about how people use the sack and the stick to beat a dog to death before roasting and eating it. We told them that, with their help, we could use the same type of wood used for violence against animals to build a decent animal shelter instead.

We're proud to report that enough corporations listened to our plea to allow PAWS to set up and run an animal shelter in Marikina. We were really happy with the results (and so was PAWS). But we were even happier when people around the world saw our work and said, hey that kind of stuff deserves an award. So we got the country's FIRST CAPLES AWARD in NEW YORK (an award given for outstanding creativity in direct marketing). And we got the country's FIRST ever trophy from CANNES (it's a BRONZE LION, but we're not complaining).

And the straightjacket?

We shudder even at the memory of that one. Briefed right before Christmas on a need to get CEOs to attend a forum sponsored by **IBM**, we thought long and hard. We said the only way we could get the country's busiest CEOs to come to one place was to get someone like management guru TOM PETERS to come to Manila. So you can imagine our surprise when IBM said, ok, go get Tom Peters in, and make sure CEOs come over. So with the help of Salt & Light Ventures, we got Tom Peters to come to Manila.

That was the easy part.

The hard part was trying to figure out how to get the attention of the CEOs to tell them about the event. We decided on sending them a straightjacket, with the advice that you could either sit around and go crazy with all the problems of doing business in Manila; or you can go listen to Tom Peters live in Manila. We loved the idea and went ahead with it. Except you can't find straightjackets in Manila, especially in between Christmas and New Year. So we went to Divisoria and had them made.

Now there are far better things to do during a Christmas break than to go to Divisoria to look for straightjackets. But we can think of nothing more rewarding than seeing the Makati Shangri-la ballroom filled with CEOs, as promised to IBM. (And it was gratifying that our work for this project was also a FINALIST at CANNES).

We have a few more straightjackets for those of you crazy enough to trust our company to do the job for you. Just call 899-5560 and look for Gretchen. Or Carol. Or Wine. Or Anne. Or Dickie. Maybe you'll allow us to send some more weird stuff to people. And get you the results you're looking for.

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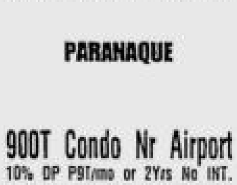

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Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED BAUAN RURAL BANK (BATANGAS), INC.

1. Starting July 1, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Bauan Rural Bank (Batangas), Inc.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from July 1 to July 24, 2003, Mondays thru Fridays, during office hours, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits, Bank Statement and Unused checks; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Bauan Rural Bank (Batangas), Inc. is on November 2, 2004. After November 2, 2004, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–June 30 & July 1, 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB FAIR 09168259974 ANA

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of Manuel Villaflor Reyes had executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights on April 3, 2002 and acknowledged the same before Notary Public Jose Augusto Salvacion for and in the City of Lucena, Philippines and bearing Doc. No. 330; Page No. 67; Book No. 31; Series of 2002 of his notarial register
(PDI-June23,30&July 7,2003)

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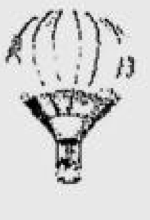

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"In Christ all shall be made alive..." Corinthians 15:22

ENGR. FELIXBERTO A. MEDIAVILLO, SR.

of Baras, Rizal and Kapitolyo, Pasig City

Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 27, 2003 at the age of 91.

His bereaved wife **Conchita**; loving sister **Filomena**; loving children **Willie** and **Virgie**, **Tito** and **Gina**, **Rosita** and **Alvin**, **Rene** and **Eileen**; grandchildren **Roselle**, **Ritchie**, **Michelle** and **Joseph**, **Mark**, **Tara**, **Jenna** and great grandchild **Bea**, and relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 5, 2003
at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 8:00 A.M. Mass.

NELDA FELICIANO MANZANO

MAY 3, 1924 – JUNE 28, 2003

MOMMY PEACEFULLY JOINED HER CREATOR
ON JUNE 28, 2003 AT THE AGE OF 79.

HER LOVING *HUSBAND* **CAPT. BIMBO H. MANZANO (†)**;
CHILDREN **RENE, ANDY, JIMMY (†), CLARISSA,**
TESS, BENJIE AND **MARGIE**;
DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW **RUBY, EMILY, MICHELLE** AND **JOY**;
SONS-IN-LAW **PAUL LACSON, GREG YANG** AND **MONCHET OLIVES**;

BROTHER **MUNDY** AND **ZITA FELICIANO**
AND *SISTER* **SR. TERESITA, RGS**;
BROTHERS AND *SISTERS-IN-LAW* **ADI (†)** AND **NENITA MANZANO,**
RAMON AND **PIL MANZANO (†), LITA** AND **DESI DE LOS REYES**;

GRANDCHILDREN **RJ** AND HIS MOTHER **CHERRISSE, BEA, JJ, IAN,**
CHRIS, NIKKO, JORDAN, JEROME, JAIRO, JUDGE,
JACQUI AND **ANJO YLLANA, JOSE MARI, JESSICA, JAIMEE,**
JAMES LACSON, PAULA LACSON, ANDREA YANG,
BETINA YANG, CATRINA YANG, GREGGY YANG, GABBY YANG,
GINO YANG, ALDO, CLARO AND **DIEGO**;

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN **MIKA** AND **ANDEE YLLANA**;

FAITHFUL HELPER **LOURDES LOPEZ**
AND *CONSTANT COMPANION* **MITZI**; RELATIVES AND FRIENDS
REQUEST THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY
FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF MOM'S SOUL.

SHE LIES IN STATE AT ST. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI,
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IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, DONATIONS TO THE
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FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

"One
thing
I ask
of the
Lord;
this
I seek:
to dwell
in the
Lord's
house
all the
days
of my
life..."
Psalm 27:4

"I am the Resurrection and the Life
He who believes in Me will live
Even though he dies, and whoever
Believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

FLORA ISON vda. de SAN ANDRES

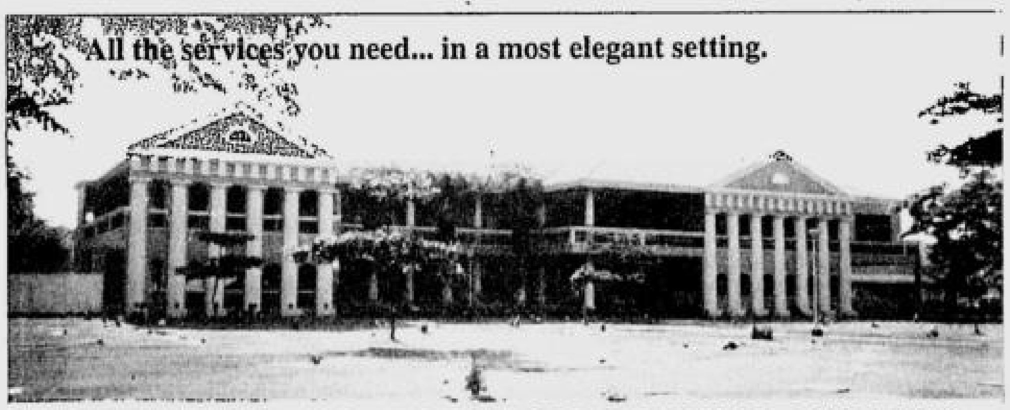
Born: December 15, 1920
Died: June 29, 2003

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 82.

Her beloved children **ZOILO (†) & LETY SAN ANDRES; FAYE vda. de LUBUGUIN (†) & ROMY ESPINO; NORMA & HENRY DUERINGER; FLOR & NAP CABELLO; AURIE & BENNY PAYUYO; VIC & BABY SAN ANDRES; JOE & IMMA SAN ANDRES; LILIE PANAL**; her grandchildren and their spouses, and great grandchildren; friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 3, 2003 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.



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PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.
PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila
PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (PBAC-ITR)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.** invites interested and qualified bidders to pre-qualify and bid for the bank's computerization project for the implementation of CASA/GL/ATM System and ATM EFT Switch Solution.

The pre-qualification documents/forms can be secured from the PBAC-ITR Secretariat, Philippine Postal Savings Bank Inc., 2nd Floor, PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila from **June 30, 2003** to **July 1, 2003**. The submission of the pre-qualification forms is scheduled on July 3, 2003.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities contained therein or accept the offer/bid considered most advantageous to the bank.

Participation in the bidding is not a guaranty for an award of the contract.

(Sgd.) **POMPEYO E. REQUINTA JR.**
Chairman, PBAC-ITR

(PDI - June 28 29 & 30 2003)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Sizes of Step-down Transformer re: O-ilaw Project under FGJ - 30907

Approved Budget: 4,600,000.00

This invitation is open to all eligible suppliers of PNOC-Energy Development Corporation. Prospective bidders not presently pre-qualified with PNOC-Energy Development Corporation shall submit their pre-qualification documents not later than fourteen (14) days before the deadline for the submission of the bids. **The bids of prospective (but not yet pre-qualified) bidders who fail to submit their pre-qualification documents before the above deadline or those who fail to meet the company's pre-qualification requirement on the bid deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.**

Bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Mr. Raffy S. Teylan starting June 27, 2003 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per document.

For purpose of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on July 16, 2003. **2:00 p.m. at the above address.**

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security to be issued by the local agent/ distributor, if any with the amount indicated in the tender document, in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC and must be delivered to the above office on or before 2:00 p.m. of July 28, 2003. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—June 30, 2003)

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.
The Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that **MARINO OLONDRIZ Y CIA**, a partnership broker firm with registered address at 902 Solidbank Building, Dasmariñas Street, Binondo, Manila is in the process of liquidating all its assets.

All clients having any claims are hereby requested to make known such interests to:

The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.
Attention: Atty. Manuel Lopez
The Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
1605 Pasig City, Metro Manila
Fax No. (02) 634-5113

The Philippine Stock Exchange must receive all claims **not later than 31 July 2003**.

(PDI - June 30 2003)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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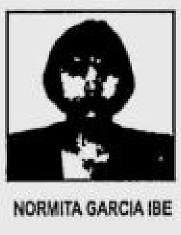
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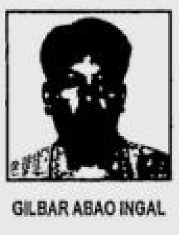
GILBAR ABAO INGAL

This is to inform the public that these persons whose names and photos appear above are no longer connected with Globaltech Industrial Corporation in any capacity whatsoever effective on June 12, 2003, June 3, 2003 and June 25, 2003 respectively

Any transactions entered into for and in behalf of the company shall not be honored by GLOBALTECH INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION.

McDonald's launches Super McTroopers

MAKE way for the new McDonald's Super McTroopers - a new breed of superheroes kids will surely watch out for.

The Ronald McDonald Fun Club (RMFC) recently launched the Super McTroopers, the McDonald's characters-turned-superheroes that were chosen to inspire kids through their helpful and generous spirits. They brought excitement and cheer to hundreds of kids who joined the Fun Fair May 24 and 25 at the Star City.

The dynamic team consists of the newly transformed Ronald, Birdie, Grimace, and Hamburglar, who all have Super McDonald's powers to show off.

Ronald, who now wears a yellow suit with a red cape, has magical powers. In McDonald land, he can make things happen because he is street-smart.

Grimace, Ronald's best friend, is a purple shape-shifter who loves desserts, cones and sundaes. Friendly, adventurous, and helpful, Grimace can mimic any shape and fit into anything!

The health buff, Birdie, now sports a pink suit. She believes that everybody should eat a balanced breakfast to jumpstart the day. The very agile and athletic McTrooper engages in sports and martial arts, which, she says, instills discipline in her. Birdie also has the ability of flying at the speed of light.

The fun-loving Hamburglar is a prankster who turns himself into a McTrooper when he eats a McDonald's burger. Hamburglar is a teleporter who can transport himself anywhere in just a matter of seconds.

"Here at McDonald's, everybody is a superhero in his or her own way. You just need to be bold and take on anything!" said Ronald McDonald, donned in his Super McTrooper costume.

When asked about how he got his superpowers, he playfully said: "McDonald's burgers give me the energy to keep me going! But don't forget that a superhero also deserves a break from his heroic acts. That's when a Happy Meal comes in handy."

The eventful launch featured a light-hearted musical performance about how the Super McTroopers came to life. Ronald McDonald, Grimace, Birdie and Hamburglar transformed into the Super McTroopers when they saw the Happy Meal Matrix fall from the sky and gave each of them unique special powers.

The McTroopers came here for only one reason: to make children happy at all costs.

They made this happen by putting up booths with carnival games, meet and greet sessions and other exciting activities McDonald's prepared for all participants. Each event pass entitled the holder to a Rocket Burger Happy Meal, a sundae cone, a gift toy, two game stubs and a "ride-all-you-can" stub.

Kids also enjoyed the unicycling, street dancing, stilt walking and juggling which reinforced the fun fair mood. The magical day ended with a colorful fireworks display that truly mesmerized everyone's eyes.

Families just couldn't wait for the next McTrooper event. "This is a good venue for parents to spend more quality time with our kids, " said Sheila Bernardo, a mother of three grade schoolers.

Celebrate your birthday at McDonald's and catch the Super McTroopers at your nearest McDonald's outlet. They will surely bring you a whole new adventure.

Kita-kits!

Sa tulong
ABS-CBN BAN BATA
ang
Solmux Ki Coug Clini
163

SOLMUX COUGH CLINIC GOES TO BANTAY BATA 163

Solmux has recently forged a partnership with the Bantay Bata Foundation for an offshoot of the 'Pambatang Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic', a free medical assistance program for school-aged children and family. Launched in February, the program has visited five public schools in Manila and has accommodated over 4,000 people per visit. The program will be visiting several Bantay Bata communities to delight its wards with a unique magic show, parlor games, as well as offer free medical assistance and medicines for Bantay Bata. Gracing the launch of this venture are Tina Monzon-Palma, program director for Bantay Bata 163 and Juñ Vivar, VP-Unilab consumer health (3rd and 4th from left, respectively) with Nettenette Torres, external affairs officer for BB 163, Kate Contreras, external affairs coordinator for BB 163, Trisha Siojo, product manager for Solmux, and Joey Romana, AVP-Unilab consumer health.

Postal worker's honesty cited

FOR RETURNING a check worth P50,300 to its owner, Legaspi City Postman Gil B. Boragay was cited by Postmaster General Diomedio P. Villanueva for honesty in simple ceremonies held recently at the Central Office in Manila.

Villanueva gave a plaque of appreciation and one-step promotion to Boragay in recognition of his achievement.

The owner of the check, customs employee Fatima Purugganan, expressed her gratitude to Boragay.

Villanueva likewise urged all postal employees to follow Boragay's good deeds to maintain the trust and confidence of the mailing public.

A recipient of last year's Ten Outstanding Postal Workers, Boragay was long known to be an honest and hardworking postal employee at the post office.

Also cited was Mail Distribution chief Luvemin M. Alvarez of Postal Region 5, Legaspi City for maintaining cleanliness in accordance with the 5S program of good housekeeping among government offices.

Merck & Co top pharmaceutical company in Fortune 500

GLOBAL research-based pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. Inc. led 19 of America's largest pharmaceutical corporations and emerged among the top companies in the year 2002 listing of The Fortune 500, a prestigious annual ranking of the largest 500 US corporations conducted by renowned business publication Fortune Magazine.

The company posted improvements in revenues (8.5 percent) in 2002 to emerge first in revenues among the 19 US pharmaceutical companies that made the Fortune 500 list. Overall, Merck ranked 17th across industries on the 500 list for 2002, improving on its No. 24 position in 2001.

In its report, Fortune lamented the mediocrity in the laboratories of pharmaceutical companies. The publication, however, recognized Merck as the company in the pharmaceutical industry with the most efficient research and development arm, proving its productivity by registering the most number of compounds at the least spending.

Merck is known for its corporate contributions program which provide funding directly to qualified organizations and selected programs that serve the needs of society. The Merck Mectizan Donation Program has become a model for medical action programs worldwide. Since 1987, Merck has been providing Mectizan free of charge for millions of people infected with river blindness. Merck has also reduced the prices of HIV/AIDS medicines to help speed access in developing world.

Merck is also known for the publication of authoritative medical books such as the "Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy" and "The Merck Manual of Medical Information".

PDA, ABBOTT TO AWARD GRANT FOR DIABETIC RESEARCH

Abbott Laboratories entered into an agreement with the Philippine Diabetic Association to spur awareness among Filipinos and also generate local research initiatives about diabetes, one of the most feared and top killer diseases in the world today. The joint undertaking, called the PDA-Abbott Research Grant, will award P100,000 to the winning research protocol. The grant is also part of Abbott Laboratories' objectives of aligning its medical education programs with those of the PDA. Seen during the signing ceremonies held at the Independence Hall of Club Filipino in Greenhills were (seated, from left) Lulu Que, Glucerna SR product manager, Dr. Bienvenido Tianco, medical director, Abbott Laboratories, Allan Almazar, marketing director, hospital care division, Abbott Laboratories, Dr. Rosa Sy, PDA president, Dr. Ruby Go, and Dr. Cynthia Manabat. Also present at the signing,were (standing, from left) Susan Trinidad, Pauline Espiritu, Dr. Edith Dalisay, and Dr. Roberto Mirasol.

Novellino wines offer more variants

MARKET Reach, exclusive distributor of Novellino Sweet Wines, has introduced three variants of dry wines formulated to satisfy the discriminating taste of dry wine drinkers in the Philippines.

The dry wines will be displayed at Food & Drinks Asia 2003 from Sept. 3-6 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Novellino Secco is top-of-the-line category. It is a delight to feel the smooth velvety finish of Merlot and the elegantly robust hearty character of Cabernet Sauvignon. These two Secco variants are set apart from other dry wines because these are full-bodied wines with the coveted DOC classification. Denominazione di Origine Controllata (DOC) is Italy's system of accreditation for fine wines. This guarantees the authenticity of the grapes claimed on the label and certifies that the production strictly adheres to the exacting standards of the region. Another one, Novellino Dry variant, is Rosso Del Azienda. This red table wine is made of special blend of traditional·Italian grapes delicately balanced to deliver a gentle fruity taste and soft silky texture that is ideal for easy drinking.

Market Reach will also give samples of different Novellino variants (8 sweet and 3 dry wines) at the Novellino sampling booth. Novellino wines are available at all leading supermarkets and wine shops.

For more queries about Novellino, call Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc. at 834-0085 to 86, fax 831-3828, or e-mail time@skyinet.net.

DUMEX-MERCURY DRUG PARTNERSHIP

Dumex Philippines Inc. entered into a partnership agreement recently with Mercury Drug Corp. in connection with My First Born Baby promo that marks the launch of Dumex Mama Plus nutritional supplement for pregnant and lactating mothers. Every purchase of Dumex Mama Plus nutritional supplement for pregnant and lactating mothers comes with a redemption coupon. This redemption coupon entitles moms to receive a free VCD titled 'The Joy of Motherhood', which provides first-hand information for women on pregnancy as well as how to take care of their newborn. Apart from the VCD, moms will also receive invitations to fun-filled and informative activities organized by Dumex such as seminars and special events. Dumex Mama Plus nutritional milk supplement is exclusively available in Mercury Drug branches all over the country. Shown during the signing are Maria Sarah P. Albert (standing left), national sales manager, Dumex Philippines Inc., Eugene C. Go (seated left), group product manager, Dumex Philippines, Mario C. Marron, AVP-ads and promo department, Mercury Drug, and Corazon S. Lim, AVP-purchasing, Mercury Drug.

NEW YORK LIFE'S SENIOR FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES

New York Life Insurance (Philippines) Inc. proudly recognized its first senior financial executives during its first Town Hall Meeting April 25. The announcement caught Mary Avigail Manaluz and Lizelle Lazo by surprise when they were awarded their respective plaques of recognition and cash prizes, among other gifts and privileges given to those who reach this status. Both ladies were honored for their hard work, determination and invaluable contribution to the company. Shown, from left, are Jennifer Santos, area manager for Bancassurance, George B. May, president and CEO, Manaluz, Lazo, Kenn Ramirez, SVP for agency distribution and Sandra Saplala, AVP for Bancassurance.

SGETECH, INC.
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DLSU WINS INTER-SCHOOL IT CONTEST

A team of 4 Information Technology students from De La Salle University won the championship in the First Annual SGETech Cup, an inter-IT school software design competition organized by global IT corporation SGETech Inc. Winning the grand prize of P100,000 is the team of (shown from left) Aldrich Lorenzo, Jonathan Lee, Jonathan Roque and Jerrick Sy, with the entry 'Project DARC (DLX Architecture Simulator)'. For the honors received by its students, DLSU was presented the five-foot tall, 24-K gold, silver and brass SGETech Cup June 18, which it would keep until next year when it defends the title. 20 colleges and universities in Metro Manila participated in the highly technical software design contest, and was judged by senior SGETech officers. SGETech is a US-based IT consulting firm with offices in Australia and the Philippines.

Cimech Brand Boiler showcase at AsiaFood Expo

THE CIMECH Brand Boiler will be showcased at AsiaFood Expo 2003 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from Sept. 3 to 6. Cimech Brand Boiler is a package-type boiler built in accordance with the ASME and PSME code.

The design of the Cimech Boiler is based on custom designed horizontal and vertical firetube boiler to suit each individual customer requirement. The materials used are 90-percent imported.

The Cimech Brand Boiler uses US-brand burner, Iron Fireman for bunker-fueled boiler and Japan brand burner, Olympia, for diesel-fueled boiler, and uses US controls such as the Honeywell brand and B/W Controls. Cimech boiler has alarm and indicator lights to easily determine the status of the boiler. Cimech Systems Construction Inc makes its boilers easy to operate and easy to maintain. These boilers range from 10 to 800 boiler horsepower. The Cimech boiler was awarded the Top Boiler Brand for 2002 by the National Consumers Product.

For more information on AsiaFood Expo, call Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc. at 834-0085 to 86, fax 831-3828 or e-mail time@skyinet.net.

INFOTECH

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Leo Magno**

Yu leaving Oracle after 10 years of service

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

ORACLE Philippines managing director Bernard Yu is leaving the enterprise software company after 10 and a half years of service at the local subsidiary, industry sources told INQ7.net.

"I'd like to take a long rest after 25 years in the local IT industry and 10 and half at Oracle," Yu told INQ7.net in a telephone interview.

Yashi Kan, a 38-year-old Indian national from Oracle India, would be taking over the Filipino executive's position, industry sources revealed. Kan is scheduled to be introduced today during an Oracle Philippines event.

An industry source said, however, that the foreign executive would lead the local subsidiary until the company finds a Filipino replacement in three years.

Another source said that the announcement of Yu's retirement was already made known to employees of the local subsidiary through an internal memo.

Yu is the first and only Filipino to have become head of Oracle Philippines. He was then 36 years old when he took over the helm of Oracle Systems Philippines Inc.

Yu is also the third top executive in the local IT industry to have either retired or have moved on to another company.

Last week, Dell Philippines country manager Irene-Go Catane resigned after more than a year in the company. She is now with IBM Philippines.

Also last week, Pinoymail cofounder Dominick Danao quit from the dotcom firm he started with friends. He is now with local telecommunications firm Sun Cellular.

Commercial Wi-Fi services, bluetooth 'illegal,' says NTC

By Erwin Oliva and Joel Pinaroc

AS far as the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is concerned, commercial wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) services, and even bluetooth use is still "illegal" in certain regions in the country, including Metro Manila.

Wi-Fi is also known as wireless local area network, which provides fast Internet access using a specific radio frequency band. This setup allows people to use devices—including laptops and personal digital assistants—to hook up to the Internet via Wi-Fi hotspots.

"I think they (commercial use of Wi-Fi and Bluetooth) have to stop because it is against the law," said Edgardo Cabarios, director of the common carrier department of the NTC.

Cabarios said that the NTC is still drafting the guidelines to regulate commercial Wi-Fi activities in the Philippines. Current laws being adopted to regulate wireless media were written in 1931.

The new guidelines hope to boost deployment and development of commercial Wi-Fi services in the country, and wrest control of the 2.4-GHz frequency from the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco). Current NTC regulations prohibit the use of the spread spectrum radio technology—which includes Wi-Fi, within the 2.4-gigahertz frequency band. This frequency band is now being used by the utility firm Meralco for its internal communications.

Cabarios said the guidelines hope to lift this prohibition in the National Capital Region, Region III and IV. In other regions, the 2.4-GHz frequency can be used, meaning Wi-Fi hotspots can legally be set up there.

The NTC is scheduled to conduct a public hearing on July on the proposed guidelines before it issues a directive allowing the use of the 2.4-Ghz frequency band in the three regions. He said that the NTC has been in discussions with Meralco since 1998 to move to another frequency band, which in the United States is considered a free frequency band.

"The move will not affect their operations," Cabarios said.

Cabarios revealed that operators like Globe Telecom have no authority yet to offer commercial Wi-Fi services in Metro Manila.

Globe has been active in deploying its Wi-Fi projects, putting up hotspots in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao. Globe has been issued a "propagation test permit," which allows them to evaluate the technology within 30 days.

Cabarios said that the permit does not give the local Wi-Fi providers the authority to offer commercial Wi-Fi services in Metro Manila, Region III and IV.

Gil Genio, senior vice president of wireline and data services of Globe Telecom, meanwhile said that the operator's Wi-Fi services are just part of a bundled service. He added that subscribers of Globe's digital subscriber line or DSL, for instance, can avail of the company's Wi-Fi services—called WIZ—as part of their subscription.

"Wi-Fi is just one form of access we offer. There are other customers paying us through other means to gain access," Genio said.

Genio said that Globe's permit is current, but hopes that the NTC would come out with the guidelines as soon as its permit expires.

Still, the Wi-Fi option of Globe's DSL package comes at a P500 premium, meaning the service is still commercial when NTC rules do not allow this under the 30-day propagation test permit. WIZ was launched in the middle of May, more than 30 days ago, but Genio said the test permit was renewed with the NTC.

The executive pointed out that the company is currently operating under a regulatory framework that is old.

Further, Cabarios said that based on existing regulations, Bluetooth technology use should also be regulated in the Philippines.

Bluetooth provides wireless connectivity up to a 10-meter radius. A majority of mobile devices released in the local market support this technology.

Cabarios said that, strictly speaking, Bluetooth-enabled phones from Nokia, Sony Ericsson and the other manufacturers should first be preregistered prior to being sold to consumers, similar to what is being done with two-way radios. This is because, Cabarios said, Bluetooth still uses radio frequency, which under Philippine laws should be regulated.

Bill Gates declares war on 'spammers'

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

MICROSOFT chief software architect Bill Gates has finally declared war against spam, a modern world nuisance targeting anyone with electronic mail.

In an executive e-mail sent to journalists worldwide, Gates said that since e-mail is now "an integral part of business and everyday life," it is but natural for the No. 1 software company to address the issue head-on, using both new technologies integrated into their upcoming products and services, and the right strategy in collaboration with government and industry.

Spam or unsolicited commercial e-mail is spreading like a plague, said Gates.

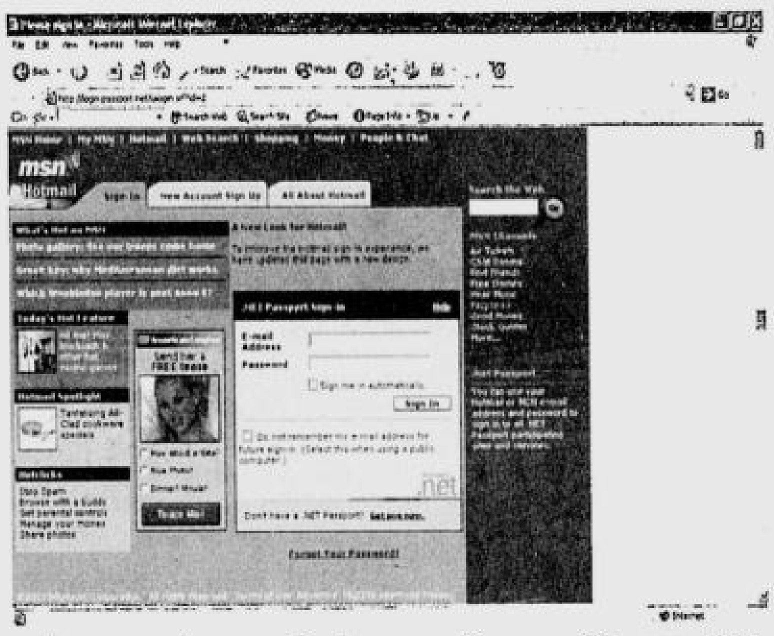
"Generally unwanted and often pornographic or with fraudulent intent, spam is a nuisance and a distraction. Like almost everyone, I receive a lot of spam every day, much of it offering to help me get out of debt or get rich quick. It's ridiculous," said Gates who is one of the richest men in the world.

With e-mail becoming more ubiquitous in organizations, Gates said that spam is now seen as draining productivity and even increasingly becoming a cost to company resources.

"It clogs corporate networks, and is sometimes a vehicle for viruses that can cause serious damage," he said.

As part of its trustworthy computing strategy, Microsoft is now taking steps to fight spam that is polluting e-mail systems worldwide.

He said that Microsoft would soon include more sophisticated and smart anti-spam technologies in newer versions of MSN, Hotmail, Exchange and Outlook.



The executive also revealed that Microsoft has created a new Anti-Spam Technology and Strategy Group that would bring together all of the company's anti-spam strategy and research and development efforts.

The software behemoth also claimed to have assembled "a massive and still growing database of spam" collected from volunteers among our millions of MSN and Hotmail subscribers.

Gates said the database would prove invaluable later this year when the company releases Outlook 2003. The new software upgrade would include an anti-spam filter that would get updated once users download Windows updates from the company's website.

According to Gates, Microsoft's spam filters on MSN and Hotmail has blocked more than 2.4 billion messages a day, before they ever reach the subscribers' e-mail inboxes.

Gates' battle cry, however, is not limited to Microsoft itself.

He stressed that the war against spam should be multifaceted. It includes industry self-regulation, effective and appropriate legislation and targeted enforcement against excessive spammers.

In April 2003, Microsoft allied with AOL and Yahoo! in a global fight against spam. Earthlink also joined in later to promote business guidelines, best practices and technical standards that could help curb spam sent or received via any online service or computing platform, Gates added.

Microsoft has also begun cleaning up its own backyard, rooting out subscribers using Hotmail and MSN to propagate spam, the executive said.

Microsoft is also working with government and industry leaders to put an end to spammers' deceptive practices, including spoofing identities.

On June 16, Microsoft filed 15 lawsuits in the United States and the United Kingdom against companies and individuals alleged to be responsible for billions of spam messages sent in violation of state and federal laws.

"These efforts would be helped—and consumers would benefit—from legislation that would include clearer prohibitions against using misleading sender addresses and other false header information," Gates said.

Microsoft, however, admitted that the biggest challenge in curbing spam lies in accurately identifying legitimate commercial email from spam.

He said guidelines defining, for example, whether and when an e-mail is legitimate based on a previous business relationship between the sender and recipient.

Microsoft and other technology leaders are now drawing up plans leading toward the setting up of independent e-mail trust authorities to establish and maintain commercial e-mail guidelines, certify senders who follow the guidelines, and resolve customer disputes.

"These and other efforts across many fronts should lead to a world where we are less troubled by spam. As less of it reaches recipients—and violators face stiffer sanctions for illegal activities—the financial incentives for spammers will decrease, and spamming will lose much of its appeal," he said.

UK GSM group to set up RP chapter

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

AN ASSOCIATION of suppliers of mobile phone technology based in the United Kingdom is being invited to set up a local counterpart, an industry source said during a meeting at the National Telecommunications Commission.

The source said that the establishment of the local chapter would help project a stable business infrastructure in the Philippines.

The source said that the GSM Suppliers Association would likely establish a Philippine chapter within the year.

An Asia Pacific chapter has recently been established.

The UK-based association is composed of top mobile phone vendors, including Nokia, Ericsson, Alcatel and Siemens.

"The Philippines is now being recognized as one of the leading market for GSM technologies in Asia," the source said.

The source said that foreign representatives of the GSA are expected to fly this month to the Philippines.

"This association can bring in some knowledge to the Philippines and vice versa," the source said.

The association will also enable the Philippines to share success stories and best practices to foreign members of the group.

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Charlie's Angels unleash wireless secret weapon

SONY Ericsson is partnering with Columbia Pictures on its latest action-adventure-comedy, "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle." The Angels stars are returning to the big screen again, battling forces of evil with advanced technologies, including the Sony Ericsson T610 mobile phone.

Sony Ericsson is proud to join Columbia Pictures for this big blockbuster to show off the advanced imaging features of Sony Ericsson T610 in an entertaining setting. The company has built a tradition of participating in gadget-oriented, action-adventure movies to showcase mobile phones and advanced technologies.

Sony Ericsson's appearance in Charlie's Angels adds to its resumé of blockbuster movies, which includes James Bond's "The World is Not Enough" and "Die Another Day," as well as "Lara Croft's Tomb Raider."

The Sony Ericsson T610 and other Sony Ericsson mobile phones will make several appearances in the movie and are an integral part of the story line. The Angels are aided by the Sony Ericsson T610, a mobile phone that doubles as a camera. The dynamic trio relies on the imaging capabilities of the T610 camera mobile phone to transmit critical pictures and help them in their quest to capture the bad guy.

More RP firms deploying broadband technology

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

MORE PHILIPPINE firms are deploying broadband technology within their organizations, as the Internet is fast becoming the venue for conducting business, a top official of a telecommunications firm said Wednesday.

Based on its experience, Eastern Telecom said that roughly 50 percent of the firm's customers are now using digital subscriber line (DSL), a broadband technology that uses traditional copper wire lines to deliver fast Internet services, said Virgil Pedro, vice president of product management, marketing and channel of Eastern Telecom.

Most of customers deploying DSL are small- to medium-sized enterprises, added Pedro.

Pedro noted that most of the users who have moved to DSL started out with dial-up Internet, which was used mainly for browsing and e-mail applications.

But with more companies integrating business applications to the Web, Pedro said that it was a natural progression for local organizations to move up to DSL or Gigabit Ethernet which is a bigger pipe or has more bandwidth.

"The growth of broadband technology in the country has been due to pent-up demand and the entry of newer technologies," he said.

New business applications are also driving firms to consider deploying a mix-and-match of broadband and traditional Internet technology, such as ISDN.

"ISDN really never took off in the Philippines. This technology is too specialized and is now being used as a backup data link or for videoconferencing. Few use it for accessing the Internet," the executive said.

DSL, on the other end, has made it possible for telecom firms to price Internet services attractively since it was easier to deploy in central business districts (where majority of Eastern's customers are located) at a lower cost, Pedro said.

Pedro said that the number of customers of ISDN is dropping relative to customers of DSL and Gigabit Ethernet.

Gigabit Ethernet, which uses fiber optic technology to deliver faster data transfer rates, is mainly used for mission-critical applications that require huge bandwidth and require the line to be always on, he said.

In the Philippines, Pedro said that larger firms are increasingly moving toward Gigabit Ethernet "as they become dependent on the Internet."

BUSINESS

Gov't set to create ICT commission

By Abigail L. Ho

IN PREPARATION for the eventual break-up of the Department of Transportation and Communications into two different agencies, the government is creating an information and communications technology commission to serve as a "transition" agency that will temporarily oversee some of the DOTC's attached agencies.

"There's now a move by the executive department to create an ICT commission. This will be put in place while waiting for the enactment of the bill creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology," Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said.

Some bills that provided for the splitting of the transportation and communications functions of the DOTC are still pending in both houses of Congress.

Under these bills, the transportation aspect of the DOTC will be merged with the Department of Public Works and Highways to form the Department of Transportation and Highways, while the communications aspect will go to the DICT.

Communications Undersecretary and concurrent Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) executive director Virgilio Peña presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet last Wednesday the rationale of the ICT commission as well as its functions and responsibilities.

Peña said the initial draft that he presented was still open to fine-tuning and additional suggestions from the private sector and various concerned agencies

"The President asked us to form a workgroup composed of myself, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Science and Technology and the private sector," he said.

"We were then asked to collect inputs from other council members. We will collate these and then come up with a new draft for ITECC approval. We were given 30 days to complete the new draft," he added.

Under the first draft, Peña said the ICT commission would either be attached to the DOTC or would be put directly under the Office of the President.

Agencies that would fall under the jurisdiction of the yet-to-be-formed commission included the National Telecommunications Commission, Philippine Postal Corp., Telecommunications Office and the National Computer Center.

The NTC will fall under the ICT commission but it will remain an independent body, Mendoza said. Its functions, however, will be enhanced to "support reforms regarding ICT-related issues."

"The NTC will not change its personality. It will remain an independent quasi-judicial body,' Peña added.

He said the formation of the ICT commission would likely "increase the DICT bill's level of urgency as against other priority bills."

BSP seen easing single borrower limit rule

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is considering a recommendation of foreign banks to exclude a borrower's loans that are secured by US Treasury notes and other highly rated securities from the computation of the single borrower limit.

"The Monetary Board has agreed to consider qualifying loans secured by US Treasury notes and other securities issued by central governments and central banks of foreign countries (with the highest credit qualifications given by two internationally accepted ratings agencies) as non-risk assets," said BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes.

Non-risk assets are excluded from the computation of the banks' single borrower limit, a precaution adopted by the central bank to ensure that lenders will not sustain huge risks from undue exposure to a single party.

Under the rule, banks are not allowed to lend more than 25 percent of its capital to a single borrower.

Reyes said foreign banks with branches in the Philippines felt the local regulation, that considers loans backed by highly rated securities as risk assets and therefore included in the SBL computation was inconsistent.

Under the local regulation, Philippine government securities are considered non-risk. Foreign banks insisted that the same treatment should be extended to US treasuries and similar securities.

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Aussie mining firm starts $43-M project

By Christine A. Gaylican

AUSTRALIAN mining subsidiary Lafayette (Philippines) Inc. will begin the first phase of the construction of its $43-million polymetallic mineral production facility in Albay, Legaspi.

Lafayette Mining managing director Andrew McIlwain said in a report to the Australian Stock Exchange last week that its "Philippine subsidiary will commence work at the Rapu Rapu polymetallic mining facility ahead of the final bank credit approval to accelerate the overall construction time."

McIlwain said it would complete the initial development of the port facility and access road to the Rapu Rapu mine site as well as the other work associated with the detailed design required at the start of full construction.

"This confirms that Lafayette is on track toward full commercial production by 2004, pending receipt of the final debt funding," said McIlwain.

Congress open to ERC plea for fiscal autonomy

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HOUSE of Representatives' committee on energy is open to giving the Energy Regulatory Commission fiscal autonomy as well as the authority to generate its own income, committee chair Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelles said.

In an interview, Badelles said the committee was studying the matter along with other pending bills related to the energy sector and energy-based industries.

"We are asking (the ERC) to turn in a draft bill for this," the congressman from the second district of Lanao del Norte said.

He said the committee was considering not only fiscal autonomy for the quasi-judicial body but also the authority to earn for itself.

ERC officials explained that the regulator was depending on allocation for its funding needs from the national government, for which they seek approval from Congress each year.

They said that even then, the budget was released on a monthly basis and that sometimes the monthly allowance was not released wholly.

ERC Chair Manuel Sanchez said fiscal autonomy would allow the commission to use its money according to the best possible way without first seeking approval from other government agencies for any changes in spending plans.

"The ERC earns an average of P150 million a year in collection of fees, but we turn over the entire amount to the national treasury," Sanchez added.

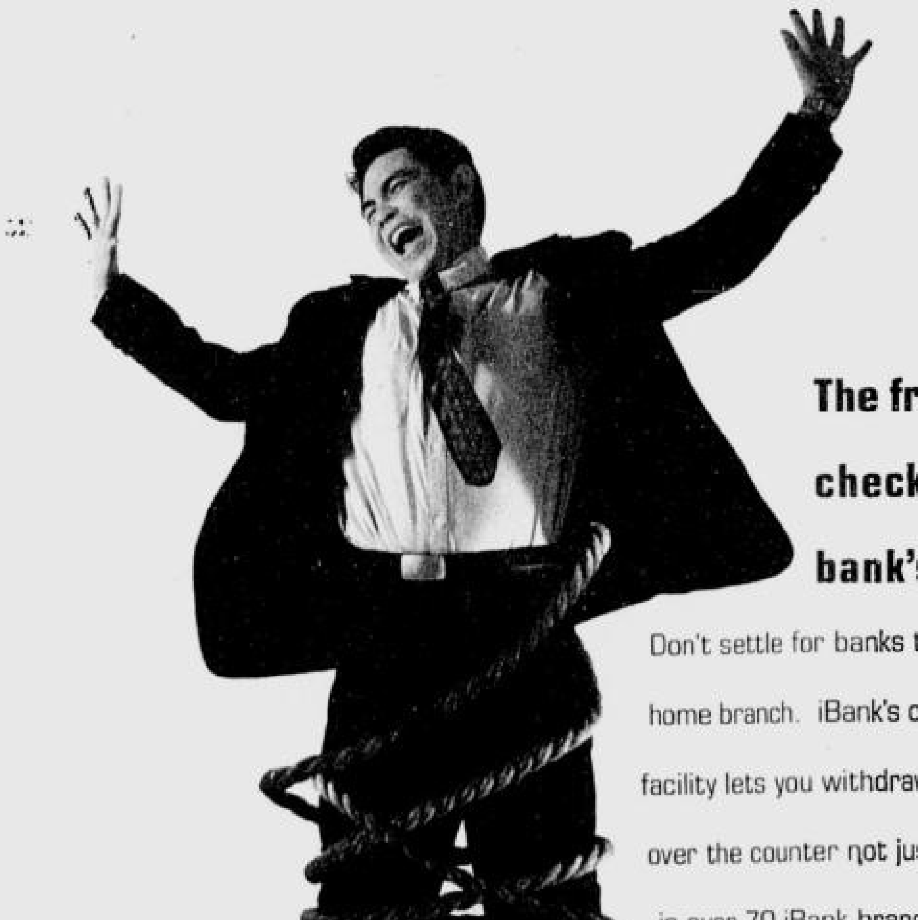
Such fees cover for inspections of facilities, processing of documents and other services that the ERC render.

Last week, Sanchez urged Congress to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act and give the ERC fiscal autonomy for it to do its job more efficiently.

"I believe that for the ERC to be strong and independent, it should have fiscal autonomy," Sanchez said.

Sanchez said that limits on regulatory resources had been a perennial constraint to industry reforms being instituted by the quasi-judicial body.

On Friday, the commission also launched its Text ERC program through which consumers can send their complaints or suggestions.



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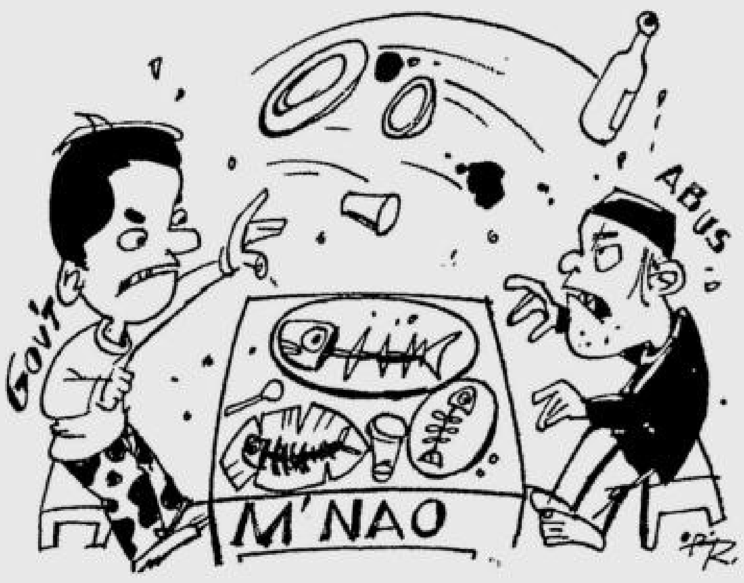
Poverty: Root cause of Mindanao conflict



By Dennis M. Arroyo

MALACAÑANG is trying hard to make peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). If both parties carve out a deal, it may end the decades-long carnage in Mindanao.

But will the revolt reignite?

The real dynamite behind war is poverty, and it is packed in the wrapping of history, ethnicity, and religious identity. Poverty has unleashed gunfire, and the conflict in turn has worsened the poverty there. A lasting peace requires not only the redress of historical grievances. It demands a serious fight against poverty.

The information source of this piece is the World Bank's recent "Social Assessment of Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao." Opinions expressed here are merely those of this author.

Poorest among 77 provinces

The conflict-wracked Muslim provinces tended to be the poorest in Mindanao and in the whole

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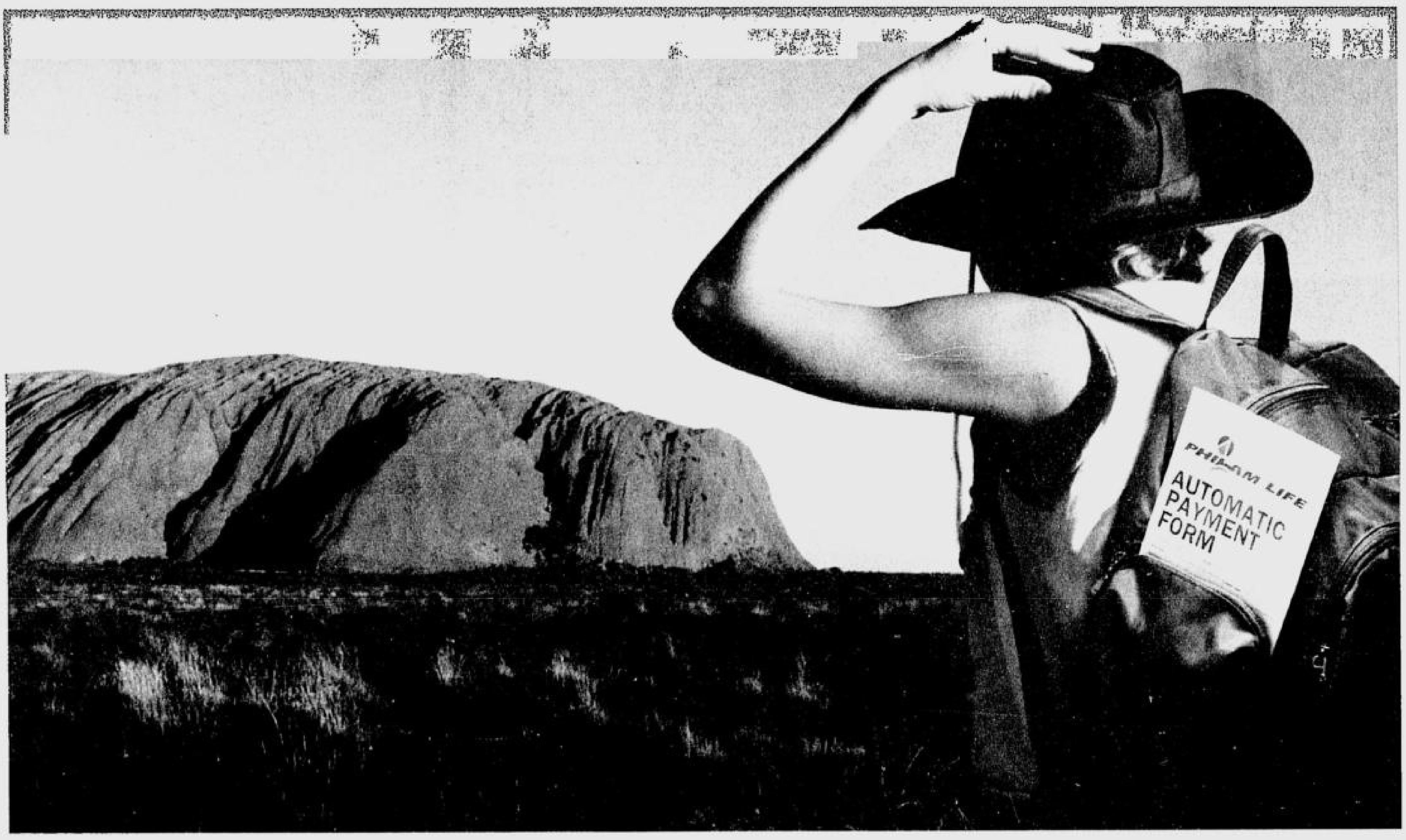

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AXA has new board members

PHILIPPINE AXA Life Insurance chair Elvira Ong Chan announces the election of Jean-Yves Le Berre and Anjanette Ty Dy Buncio as the latest members of its board for 2003.

Le Berre is the AXA Group's senior vice president for Business Support and Development, Asia-Pacific. He also concurrently serves as Alternate Director for AXA APH Australia, Director of AXA China SA and Statutory Auditor of both AXA Insurance Holdings and AXA Direct in Japan.

On the other hand, Dy Buncio is concurrently the Treasurer of Thomas Cook Philippines, Senior Manager of Metrobank, executive vice president of Proline Sports Center and assistant vice president & treasurer of Federal Land.

Aside from Chan's company board seat, she also serves as an Advisory board member of Metrobank, executive vice president of Metrobank Foundation and Manila Doctors Hospital and vice-chair of Manila Doctors' College.

Vice-chair of the board is Francisco Sebastian who is also the president of First Metro Investment Corporation, as well as chair of First Metro International Investment Corp. (Hong Kong), Integrated Financial Services, Philippines and Integrated Executive Selection.

Other members of the board are: Philippine AXA Life president and CEO Victor Quisumbing, Metrobank executive vice president and chief financial officer Alfredo Javellana II, Reynaldo de Dios, president of the Reynaldo A. de Dios and Company, Mark Pearson, regional chief executive for AXA Asia Pacific Holdings Ltd. and Mark Wilson, CEO for Southeast Asia of AXA Asia Pacific Holdings Ltd.

Advisers to the Philippine AXA Life Board for 2003 include Mr. George S.K. Ty and Mr. Antonio S. Abacan Jr., chair and president of Metrobank, respectively.

Hallmark Channel has new VP

LAI

HALLMARK Channel announces the promotion of Simon Lai to vice president, Sales and Business Development, Asia Pacific from his former director position.

Simon reports to Terence Yau, managing director and chief executive, Asia Pacific, Crown Media International, Asia Pacific for Hallmark Channel.

Having been with the company since July 2000, Simon has contributed to the channel's distribution expansion and revenue growth. In his new position, Simon will also spearhead both advertising sales and marketing functions. The appointment follows the company's objective to have marketing initiatives bolster advertising growth.

With Simon at the help, the channel looks forward to more distribution and advertising sales agreements with key strategic partners across the Asia-Pacific region.

In search of a virtuous, competent, just, healing and teaching president

MAPping THE FUTURE

Rex C. Drilon II

IN less than a year, the country faces a crucial test. Notwithstanding the forces that are apparently already in motion to frustrate once more the will of the people, the business sector and its leaders must rise to the occasion by presenting to the people and supporting a credible, virtuous and competent dark horse—an alternative choice of a leader who can save this country from further deterioration to mediocrity, more corruption, more poverty and hopelessness.

There are 82 million Filipinos. Surely there must be at least a handful of men and women who can lift this country to its rightful place among the great nations of Asia.

The next CEO of this republic must be a person of Character, must be Competent, must have a strong sense of Community and must be fully prepared and Committed to the huge task of uniting and rebuilding this country.

Character

The President to be elected in May 2004 must be a person of outstanding character. This is normally manifested in this person's vision and mission in life and the values and beliefs he or she holds dear. Stephen Covey's 7 Habits* and Peter Senge's measures of Personal Mastery** describe this person.

He or she maintains a circle of friends and associates who model what is true, good and beautiful. They have integrity, they walk their talk. They live with a passion for servant leadership. They are ethical—for them, the ends never justify the means. They live wholesome family lives and share a hard work ethic. The virtuous President is a role model in his or her family or professional life. He or she is a person with a strong Faith in God and is unconditionally committed to the democratic way.

Competencies

The competent President is not only an excellent manager but also an outstanding leader. He or she is a user of technology, analytical, a conceptual thinker, a creative producer, a mentor-teacher-coach, entrepreneurial, articulate and an intellectual giant. The body of knowledge never ceases to expand and there is a distinct ability to see both the forest and the trees. He/she is a natural in alliance building, partnering and is a skilled negotiator.

In the mold of Peter Drucker, the competent and effective President is 1) an excellent time manager, 2) focuses on results rather than efforts, 3) builds on the strengths of his or her people and makes their weaknesses irrelevant, 4) prioritizes, 5) produces outstanding results and 6) makes effective decisions consistently.

The competent President is experienced and recognized with an outstanding track record in good governance—whether in the executive, legislative or judiciary branch of government or in business and civil society.

Sense of community

The giving President is a "person for others" and spends a significant amount of personal time and resources for personal philanthropy, volunteer work, environmental and community concerns. He or she is biased for the just and fair treatment of workers—whether in the household or in the workplace with a special preferential attitude for the poor, the disabled, the disadvantaged and the elderly. He or she is the best model for Team Philippines and Team Planet Earth—a peacemaker, a healer, fighter for the environment and a champion of justice.

Commitment to the task ahead

The virtuous, competent and giving President passionately pursues the vision of a people that is truly free, democratic, God-loving, patriotic, disciplined, united and with a strong sense of community.

The official family, led by this President, models the national value system.

He or she runs the country well. The long-term development plan captures the hopes and aspirations of the Filipino people.

Governance at the national and local levels are characterized by transparency, accountability, efficiency and decency.

The electoral process ensures replacement of the incompetent and the corrupt in government.

Economic development and improvement of the quality of life are twin priorities of government. Inflation is tamed, allowing even the disadvantaged to afford a decent existence.

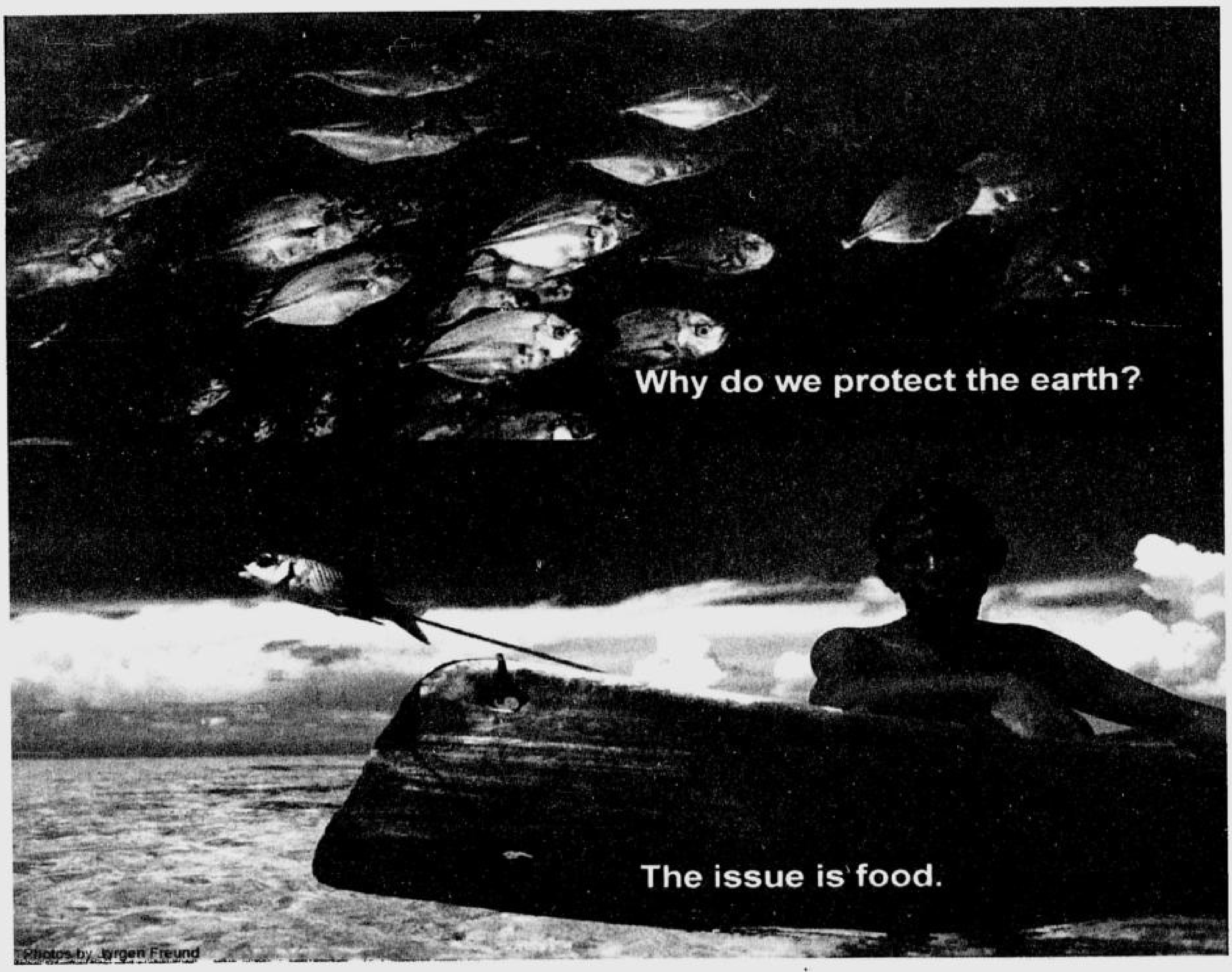
The people are secure in a peaceful, orderly and just society. There is equal opportunity for all, a level playing field. A free market environment is maintained to ensure that the efficient are duly rewarded and the inefficient culled and penalized. In parallel, the law-abiding citizens are given priorities in the fruits of development while the corrupt, the tax-evaders, the opportunists and the criminal elements are deprived of such fruits.

He or she finally unites the Philippines.

The 60 percent of the Philippine society living above the poverty line reach out, without exception, to the 40 percent who live below the line, particularly the poorest of the poor, the handicapped and the elderly. Christians and non-Christians coexist in peace and harmony. The alleviation of poverty and the provision of basic human needs such as food, shelter, education, security and justice are a national, collective effort of all sectors of Philippine society. Protecting the environment is a national pastime. Paying taxes is viewed as an act of patriotism.

And, yes, the President of the Philippines come July 2004, must be a global citizen.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and the Chief Operating Officer of Ortigas & Company. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)



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INQUIRER

Bernardo to address World Customs Organization

CUSTOMS Commissioner Antonio M. Bernardo will present the results of a time measurement study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the World Customs Organization (WCO) this month in Brussels.

The study, conducted by JICA in cooperation with the University of the Philippines Economic Foundation, pinpointed delays and bottlenecks in the different stages of import declaration filing and processing, up to shipment release.

Bernardo said the study will help prepare the BOC to meet the new challenges ahead. "Increasing competition in the international and local economic arena brought about by globalization has thrust trade facilitation in the forefront of BOC's concerns," he said.

Trade facilitation

Trade facilitation is part of Bernardo's five-point agenda that he announced when he was appointed customs commissioner in 2002.

"Trade facilitation is reducing the time and the cost of doing business. Reducing the time almost always results in reducing the cost of doing business. We do recognize the cost implication of time in the import process. The JICA study is most important as it impacts on the nagging issue of trade facilitation at the BOC," Bernardo explained.

The study covered the different stages of import processing in the country, from shipment discharge to import declaration lodgment, registration, customs clearance, payment of fees and release. It showed the time consumed at each stage of import processing.

"I now commit the BOC to seriously evaluate the results of the study to explore possibilities for improvements. We in the BOC have been looking inward into our organization, processes and resources. This introspection has made us work towards an optimal state of process equilibrium, given our constraints in law, mandate and resources," Bernardo said.

Suggestions

Among the suggestions cited in the study to improve processing time were the streamlining of BOC procedures and fees to encourage greater use of electronic submission of import declarations, improvement of the system of customs accreditation of importers and brokers.

Upgrading of the selectivity system for shipments to be examined physically, compel shipping lines and importers to provide a more adequate description of cargoes, and improvement of BOC-arrastre interface to allow for faster transmission of release messages.

Brew remains despite Starbucks' buy of Seattle's Coffee

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

UNKNOWN to many coffee drinkers in the Philippines, two of their favorite coffee hang-outs are now owned by the same group.

At least in North America. In the Philippines, the two remain as rivals.

Last April, Starbucks Corp. bought Seattle's Coffee Co., owner of Seattle's Best Coffee.

Frederick Siy of Coffee Master's Inc., local franchise holder of SBC, assures that they remain under different owners and are of course still competitors.

Siy explains that Starbucks' purchase of Seattle's Coffee from the Atlanta-based AFC Enterprises Inc., was confined to the North American operations.

"They kept the international group separate and they cannot dictate over the operations outside," he says.

He admits that the move disconcerted the international franchisees such that they have met and discussed the buy-out.

SIY

"I prefer to look at it optimistically. The first thing we asked is if Starbucks will kill SBC. That will be a problem because here we are developing stores and we've already paid for the franchise."

But Starbucks. will keep both brands. What they are after is the wholesale business of SBC in the United States.

SBC's wholesale business refers to its sale of coffee to various outlets like groceries, hotels, schools and restaurants, makes up two-thirds of its business.

Starbucks on the other hand has a much bigger retail business with 6,000 stores worldwide, the bulk or some 4,900 of which are in North America.

Its weakness is its wholesale segment. By buying SCC it hopes to capture both markets.

Although SBC has only 150 in North America, the two have been known to be arch rivals in the coffee shop business.

Siy points out that the distinct difference between the two is the quality of its coffee—Starbucks is a dark roast while SBC's is a lighter roast, thus some people might find Starbucks' coffee stronger and more bitter; while some may find SBC coffee lighter and not as strong. In the end, Siy says, it's all a matter of personal taste.

Siy says they will continue to expand their outlets this year to add five more.

Siy points out setting up an SBC outlet costs some P6 to P7

BREW/ B2-5

Poverty: Root cause …

From page B2-1

Philippines. In 2000 only 5.6 percent of Metro Manila residents lived below the official poverty line. Contrast that with these ratios of living below the poverty line.

Sulu	92%
Tawi-Tawi	75
Basilan	63
Lanao del Sur	48
Maguindanao	36
Sultan Kudarat	35
North Cotabato	35
Davao del Norte	27

Sulu also had the worst scores for human development among the Philippines' 77 provinces.

Another way of seeing the gap would be to look at average annual incomes for each person in the provinces. In Metro Manila in 2000 the average resident had a yearly income of P48,816 (in 1997 pesos). The average incomes for the three poorest Mindanao provinces were:

Sulu	P 7,850.
Tawi-Tawi	11,349
Basilan	13,193

That is, the income of a Sulu resident was less than a sixth of his Metro Manila counterpart.

The war worsened poverty in Muslim Mindanao. Whole communities were displaced, cutting them off from their income sources. Those who returned home could not pursue their livelihood as before.

Displaced from farms

In 2000, fully 85 percent of the people displaced by the conflict were Muslims.

This was because the fighting between government and rebel forces took place in the camps occupied by the MILF. The camps were actually large farmlands that supported Muslim families. In Sulu. almost 300,000 people were displaced because of the clashes.

The opposite trend was seen in Basilan. Most of the victims were Christians attacked by the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Those who hesitated to return to their homes said they were prevented by the threat of new violence. And 21 percent of those surveyed said, "I lost my house."

Paralyzed by fear

Those who did return had to suffer from much uncertainty, and that wrecked the village economy. They could not fully engage in farming. The following was the English translation of comments from a villager in Kabacan, North Cotabato:

"Whenever new armed groups enter our communities, tensions immediately mount. The community becomes unstable even if violent confrontations do not occur yet. We are always in a constant state of alertness and our deep fright prevents us from engaging in farming or other forms of livelihood."

The villager added that armed men entered the area during harvest season.

Gunfire erupted, and they were forced to leave everything.

"We walk for days in search of a place of safety," said another source.

"No water, no food and certainly no time to cry. Family members also get separated."

When people endured war tension for a long time, they hesitated to invest in means to upgrade their livelihood. In the past, military men, local officials and other ethnic groups had squatted on the land of the displaced families.

Work animals starve to death.

Incomes collapsed because crops were abandoned and planting seasons passed.

Carabaos had to be left behind and they starved to death. Some were killed by stray bullets, or ended up seized by the armed groups. Those who brought their animals eventually sold them to buy food.

A survey run by the Red Cross found a sharp fall in the number of families owning carabaos. A fifth or 21 percent owned the beasts of burden before the conflict hit them. This later fell to 12 percent.

Overloaded support systems

The evacuees would turn to their relatives and friends during difficult times. But these informal support systems got overloaded. Even reliable creditors ran out of funds because all were asking for emergency money.

The creditors themselves ended up in distress.

War tore down valuable "social capital" or trust and social support in the neighborhood.

Take the example of Basilan. Before the rise of the Abu Sayyaf, Christians and Muslims got along well in the town of Lamitan. Christians would invite their Muslim friends to celebrations like fiestas and baptisms. The Muslims would come with their gifts.

Then came the beheadings by the Abu Sayyaf. Trust broke down and the visits stopped. Families have taken up arms.

If the state wants a permanent ceasefire, it must attack the root cause of violence in Muslim Mindanao: severe poverty.

Comments to <darroyo @ philonline.com>

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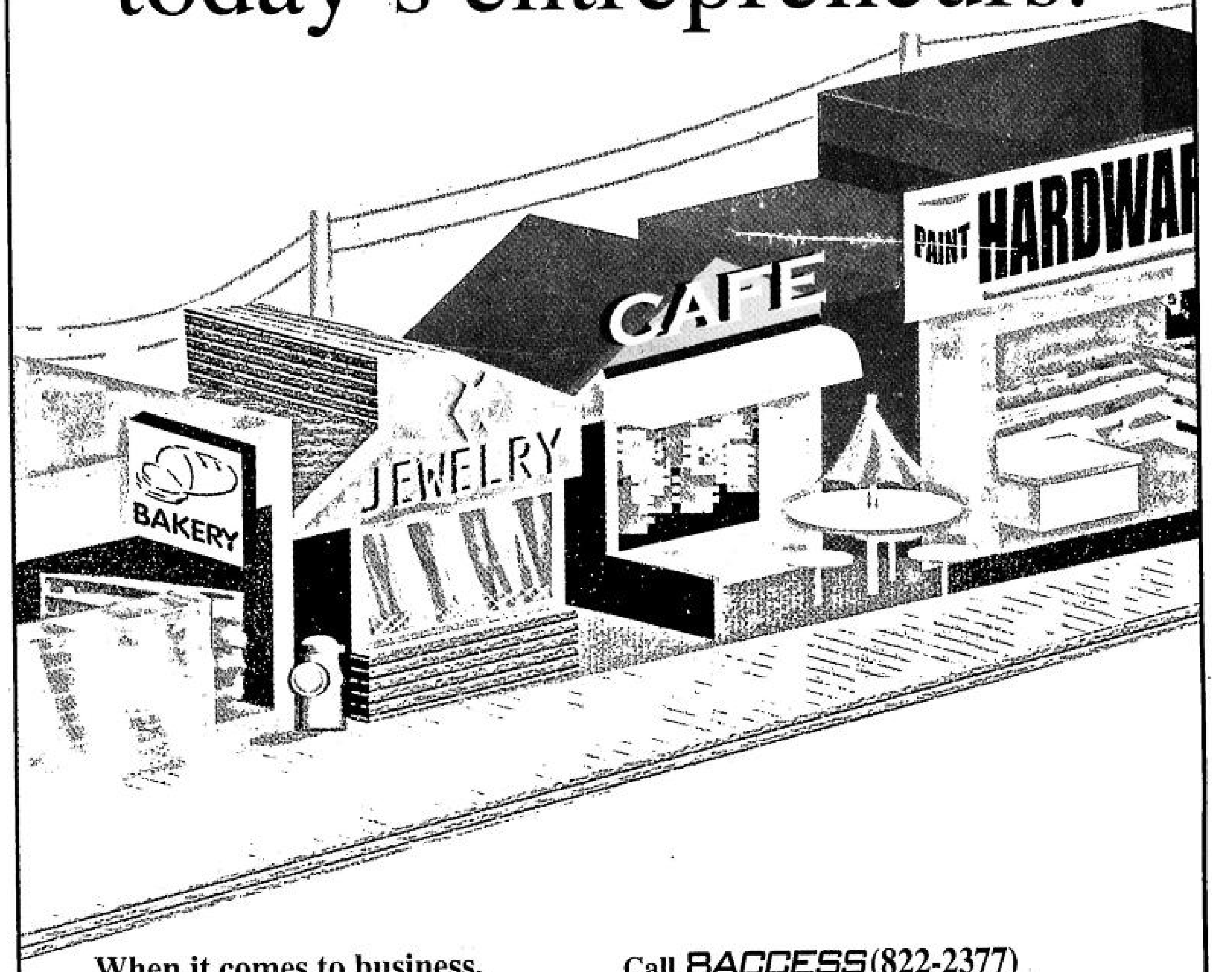

When it comes to business, the ingenuity of the Filipino entrepreneur stands out.

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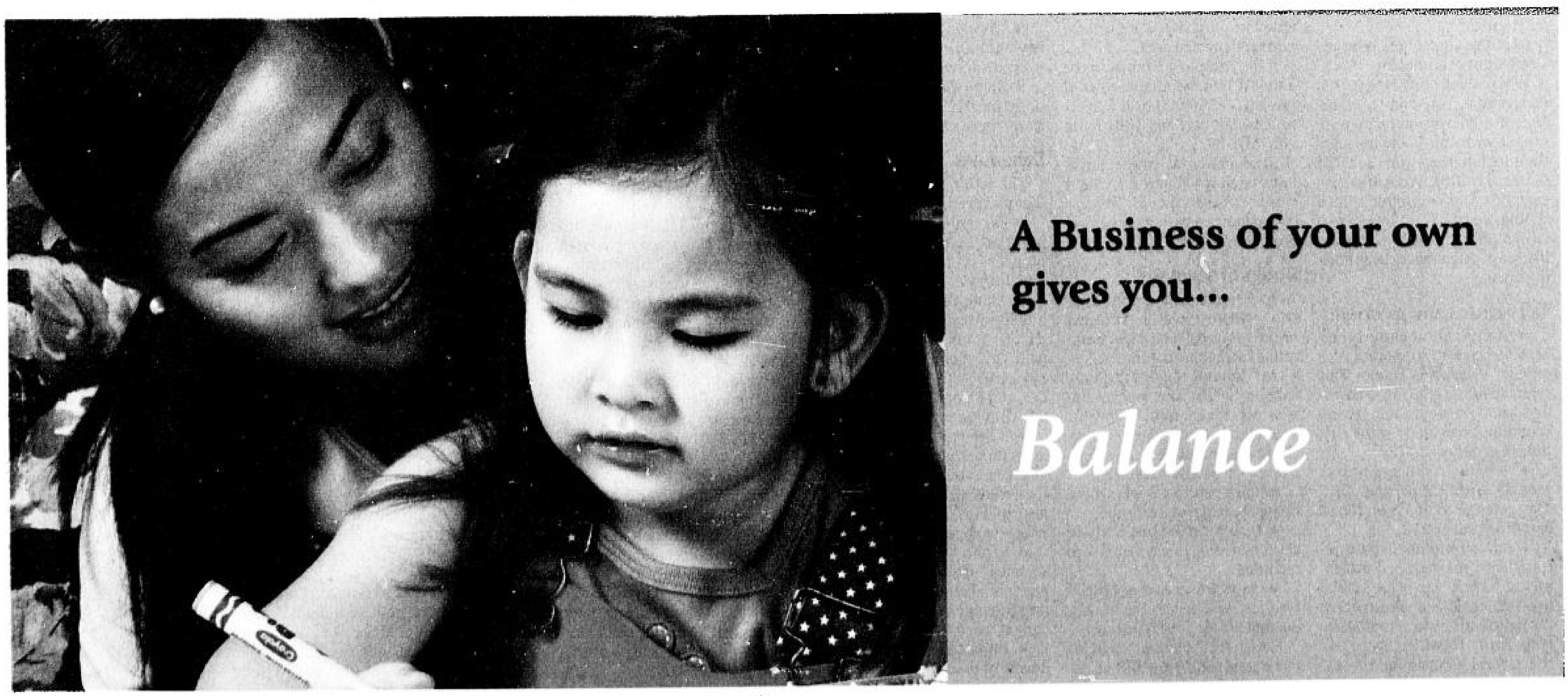

A Business of your own gives you...
Balance

Discover real savings: Modify and simplify

By Christine S. Pardiñas
Contributor, UP ISSI

COST REDUCTION PROGRAM

WHO or what are your business' worst enemies? Are these your competitors? The SARS scare? The open markets? The economic downtrend?

Whoa, before you go on a "witch hunt," look inside your operations first. It has been said that waste and inefficiency are full-time agents that work round the clock against any business.

Operations analysis or work simplification can pinpoint inefficiencies and facilitate improvements to reduce costs. This involves eliminating non-essential operations and simplifying-standardizing the remaining essentials.

It implies working smarter, not harder. Simple? Not quite.

One challenge you have to face is the natural resistance to change by people in your organization.

Idea generation

Cost reduction programs lie in a wide spectrum. On one end are obvious ideas suggesting changes that do not require in-depth analysis. For example, a quick look at your car use policies may result in changes like limiting car trips unless really necessary or establishing guidelines for justifications and reimbursements.

On the other end are complex programs that may involve comprehensive studies especially on savings estimates. Major investments, for example, in Information Technology to improve productivity will require detailed cost-benefit analysis. Streamlining processes first before automating is always compulsory to be more cost efficient. For small enterprises, where costs of computer systems can be overwhelming, extensive planning is highly recommended.

Your priority should be those projects with greater potential savings. Here, you have to evaluate not only tangible but intangible values as well. For instance, you will have to spend more in orbder to produce and deliver a rush order by a valued customer. However, the value of such service may be repaid many times by future transactions from the grateful client.

Tangible results, on the other hand, are usually measured in pay-off time; returns from investments put in; or total savings over a certain period (e.g. per hour, per day).

It is also necessary that all factors be considered when implementing changes in operations. For instance, eliminating or altering a certain process might result in lower costs in one section but higher processing costs in the next. Set aside pet projects. Select those that are realistic and show higher cost savings.

You can easily come up with a number of ideas and methods in operations analysis. Subjects may cover office standards, production operations, systems analysis, time averages, and so on. The following areas can give you some hints where to start best.

Production

Start your analysis by looking at the cost of your products or services. If you always get budget variances, you may need to update obsolete production process, improve quality practices, or dig up purchasing inefficiencies.

Explore the option of outsourcing part of your production volume. Compare the cost of in-house production with prices charged by suppliers.

Take care, however, that you produce in quality to avoid even higher costs. Examine also cycle time requirements.

Check your equipment. These may already be obsolete and disposing them for newer models might save you significant maintenance costs.

Don't hesitate to ask your suppliers to contribute cost improvement ideas. It could be as simple as changing how your raw materials are stored or as complex as modifying your whole production process. Either way, suppliers can be a great source of new ideas, so call them now and set a meeting to start your cost reduction program rolling.

Payroll costs

Streamline your operations and then update your employees' job descriptions. Alongside these new functions and targets, introduce productivity incentives in your compensation plan. It's never a bad move to motivate your employees by giving rewards or recognition for significant contributions and a job well done.

Remember that 80 percent of your profits come from the top 20 percent of your products or services. So prioritize and focus your employees' time on the most important efforts e.g. product quality, customer satisfaction, growth markets, etc.

Hire the right people. Identify the competencies required in your operations and save on training costs, reduce employee turnover, and avoid endless demoralization. You may also want to consider outsourcing some functions e.g. human resource, accounting or warehouse staff and save on hiring, training and turnover costs.

Marketing expense

Take care of your customers. Your most cost-effective marketing technique is retaining your most valuable clients.

Test your marketing/advertising activities and see which ones are the most cost-effective. Make customer service everybody's concern. Empower your employees and give them responsibility to build customer relationships.

Scout for free advertisements. Some newspapers and other mass media organizations offer deals in exchange for some services or favors.

And lastly, win back your lost customers. This will cost much less than trying to get new ones. In the process, you may also get valuable feedback from them on how to do your business better.

Look around your office or factory. Is the place too bright or too dark that employees are having difficulty working? You may need to remove excess lights or upgrade old bulbs with more energy efficient ones. Or you may only need to clean up to brighten the place.

Utility expenses

Check your water consumption, communication expense, or office supplies expense. Explore the wonders of Internet faxing, using phone cards to control calls or simply limit long distance calls. You may also want to check your mailing procedures and switch to bulk mailing—or online correspondences. You can also save time, mailing and paperwork costs by using electronic bills payment. This works especially for recurring monthly bills such as Meralco, PLDT, credit cards, etc. You can even stretch your working capital by timing your bill on the last due date of their payments.

Streamline your inventory management system. Try to reduce on storage space requirements.

Maintain records. Ensure that you always have documents to go back to when analyzing operations and identifying high cost areas.

Review how you do things. Set policies, standardize procedures and come up with a manual. A manual sets things straight and can resolve confusion.

Track your success

Operation changes do not always work promptly and perfectly. However, by staying on top of implementation until it is working smoothly, you improve your chances for success. .

Monitor any income or savings generated by your programs, such as lower costs of goods sold, lesser percentage of rejects, reduced purchasing costs, recycling revenues, etc.

The questions below can prepare you for the difficulties you might encounter in promoting changes in your organization:

1. What will be the impact of the change/s on the operation?
2. Can implementation be achieved through a succession of steps to minimize interference with operations?
3. Who will be affected by the change/s and how will it affect their current functions?
4. To what degree are training courses necessary and for whom?
5. What is the total time requirement for the whole program?
6. Should the new system be implemented completely or a parallel program with the old system necessary?
7. What is the best way to communicate the changes to encourage support and participation?

Cost reduction is only one of the topics to be discussed in the Production Management (ProdMan) Course which will run starting July 5 at the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI). For inquiries, call Ms. Blessie Clerigo at Tel. 928-7076 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph.

And you thought you had paid your taxes

By Salvador I. Sibayan
Contributor, UP ISSI

YOUR business has grown from micro to small, from a one-person show to some 25 employees, from sole proprietorship to a family corporation, and from an underground operation to one that's above ground. It is one that is perfectly legal, having registered with all the regulatory agencies. As a corporate citizen, you filed your income tax returns on time and paid the proper income taxes due—or so you thought.

One day your office received a BIR letter of authority.

What does this mean? It means that you and your accountant have to be ready with the records of your business transactions from Jan. 1, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2001. What are these exactly? Another letter which should reach you about two weeks after the first will most likely ask you to have the following on hand:

Tax returns and payments

- Corporate quarterly income tax returns supported with official receipts (ORs). This refers to BIR Form 1702Q covering your income and corresponding taxes paid for the first three quarters of 2001.
- Monthly withholding tax returns with supporting ORs. This refers to BIR Form 1601E and BIR Form 1601C.
- Annual withholding tax returns with the required attachments, such as the alpha list—which is the alphabetical listing of all your employees. (BIR Form 1604CF). To reflect the annual returns for the expanded withholding tax of professionals and subcontractors, BIR Form 1604E is used instead.
- Monthly and quarterly value added tax (VAT) declarations (BIR Form 2550M and BIR Form 2550Q) together with summary lists of:
  1. Sales, showing the dates of sale, invoice number, name of customer, amount sold, output tax, total invoice price.
  2. Purchases, showing the dates of purchase, invoice number, name of supplier, supplier's VAT registration number, amount purchased, input tax, and total invoice price.

If the company happens to be non-VAT and has annual sales of less than P550,000, it is subject to a percentage tax (BIR Form 2551M).

Incidentally, all these forms must be duly validated. In other words, these should bear a stamp indicating that these have been received by the BIR.

Books of accounts

- General and special journals, where your bookkeeper records your daily business transactions and adjusting entries.
- General and subsidiary ledgers, where the journal entries are transferred to specific accounts, like cash, accounts receivable, inventories, sales, specific expenses and the like.
- Cash receipts book, where cash payments are recorded.
- Disbursement book, where cash and check payments are recorded.
- Sales invoices and official receipts, which are the source documents for your revenues.

Hopefully, you had each of these stamped by the BIR at the beginning of 2001.

- Cash and journal vouchers, which are the source documents for your expenses and purchases.
- Stock and transfer book, which contains the capital contributed by the previous and present owners of the business, which includes you.

Worksheets

- Worksheet of ledger accounts showing their debit or credit balances, including their beginning and ending balances.
- Working papers showing how the income and/or withholding taxes due were arrived at.

Feeling disturbed? Take a deep breath, take several. Because there's more.

Schedules

The letter may also indicate that you prepare schedules of:

- Taxes and licenses, indicating kind of tax, the date and number of the OR, and the amount paid.
- Expanded and final withholding tax, indicating the names of the payees, amount paid, tax withheld, nature of payment, date and number of OR, and amount remitted to the BIR (BIR Form 1604E).
- Interest expense and loans/notes payable. If you have any, then you have to mention the creditor/s, date granted, principal loan, interest rate and interest expense.
- Export sales and "zero rated sales," if these apply to you. But you should get a certification from the BIR that your company is "zero rated."
- Importations, with breakdowns of the composition of the landed cost, tax base, VAT payment, and the number and date of the OR.
- Lapsing schedule for depreciation of machinery and equipment and amortization of pre-operating expenses.

Others

It can also ask for photocopies of:

- Letter of authority and deficiency income and business taxes paid in prior years.
- Articles of incorporation and by-laws.
- BIR registration certificate.
- Inventory list as of Dec. 31, 1999 and 2000.

That was quite a list, wasn't it? If what you've done is aboveboard and your records and documents are in order, then there's nothing to worry about. Just think of this as part of doing business.

What happens if these are not in order? Then you may have to negotiate with the BIR to comply with its requirements which may take anywhere from three to six months depending on the documents required and their availability.

To avoid this from happening again, make sure that your accountant keeps abreast of the new BIR Revenue Regulations. The BIR conducts free lectures at its regional offices. Or your accountant may enroll at various institutions that provide this sort of tax information. It is better to spend on seminars rather than operate blindly and having to pay fines and penalties.

(For inquiries on training, publications and counseling programs, e-mail: info.issi@up.edu.ph or call Tel. 9287076 to 79)

Older job applicants more willing to try alternative work

DBM (Drake Beam Morin), a global human resources consulting firm, and part of The Thomson Corporation, released new research on how a job search experience varies by age group. The data was drawn from its annual Worldwide Career Transition Study—a report on job search trends from people who experienced career transitions in 42 countries during 2002.

"While we find that older workers typically face a longer road to secure traditional re-employment than their younger counterparts, the good news is that they have the experience, flexibility, confidence, and willingness to switch industries, start a new business, or become consultants," said Tom Silveri, DBM president.

During the year, DBM worked with more than 66,000 people who participated in individual career transition programs worldwide. This study is a reflection of findings from a sample of 13,618 of those individuals with whom DBM worked in 27 countries. Respondents had a median age of 42 years and a reported tenure of seven years in their prior position. Seventy-one percent of those surveyed were male.

Key findings

- Regardless of age, the greatest functional turnover was in general management, marketing and sales, finance and accounting, and information systems.
- The average length of time to re-employment increased with age—three months for Generation X-ers, four months for Baby Boomers, and 4.4 months for mature workers.
- Forty-seven percent of professionals found new positions at the same or higher salaries, including 60 percent of Generation X-ers, 42 percent of the Baby Boomers, and 33 percent of mature workers.
- More seasoned job-seekers are more likely to change industries and functions.
- More seasoned professionals are more likely to start a business or become consultants.

Most popular job search modes by age group were:
Networking Advertising
Search Firm Internet

Philippine data

In the Philippines, male professionals make up a majority of professionals in transition (75 percent). Most would be in their mid-30s and have spent about four years of service with their previous employer.

Networking was also the most effective means of finding re-employment at 61 percent. Twenty-two percent found new jobs through the Internet, the rest through employment agencies and advertisements. Average time to re-employment was three months.

"Professionals who understand and are skilled at collaborating with their networks, soliciting opinions, and exploring opportunities are most likely to have a successful transition," said Mar Gatus, president of DBM Phils.

Transition time may be longer, however for professionals over 50 years of age, seeking a high-level position, changing industry or function or pursuing self-employment.

DBM (www.dbm.com) is the world's leading provider of strategic human resource solutions that help organizations align their workforces to meet changing business needs. Known for over 30 years for its innovative and effective career transition services, DBM offers in-depth capabilities in employee transition, retention, development, and selection. The company has more than 227 offices in over 47 countries, including the Philippines.

Got ₱78,000 to buy a vacuum cleaner?

By Anne Luisa Villarico

THIS gadget may not look like much, but it may be the answer to the prayer of urbanites who find the manual vacuuming of floors tedious and time consuming.

The Trilobite manufactured by The Electroluz Group is just a little bigger than a CD player, but the world's first and smallest vacuum cleaner can automatically navigate, clean and recharge its battery.

Its name comes from the trilobite, a type of arthropod that lived about 450-560 million years ago and vacuumed the ocean beds in search for small animals and particles.

Electrolux East Asia president Fredrik Ramen said the idea behind the Trilobite was "to simplify domestic work by reducing the need for manual vacuuming."

Ramen says Trilobite can be considered a status symbol as its main target market are people who have an affluent lifestyle and can afford the P78,000 price tag.

"Filipinos go for innovation, and this one's appearance is attractive. It can give a sense of style and image to the owner," he adds.

The first "robo" vacuum is small and portable, weighing only 5 kg. With its "bat-like" sensor, it can sense its surroundings in the same way that a bat knows its way around using echo location.

The ultrasonic sensors work by transmitting bursts of high-frequency sound waves allowing it to avoid colliding with objects on the floor.

"Kids can also operate it. My children play with it and tests if the Trilobite will bump into them... which does not happen," he says.

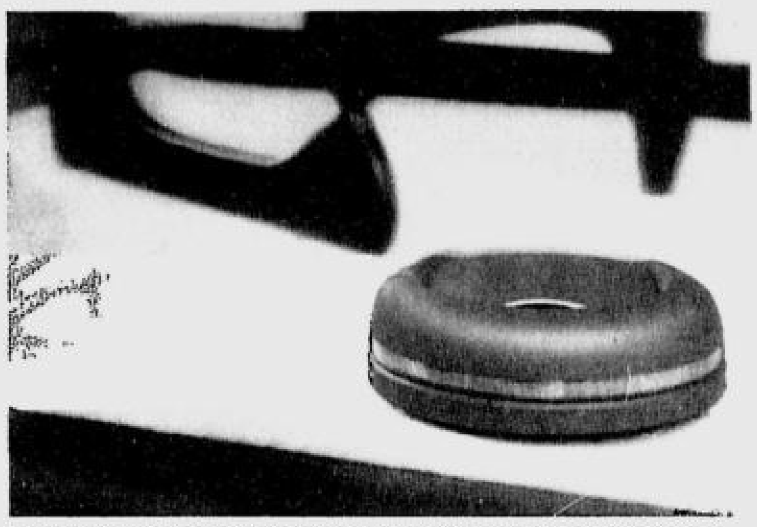
The Trilobite, however, cannot "see" staircases or detect differences in floor levels so special magnetic strips are placed near stairs, doorways and other openings to keep the Trilobite from falling.

The Trilobite also cannot be used to clean liquid spills because "it is made especially for dry surfaces," Ramen says.

The advantage is that it can be left alone to do the job. It shuts off on its own and recharges its own batteries.

When it is running low on electricity, it automatically finds the battery charger as long as the latter is connected to the main plugs in the room where the Trilobite is working.

If the cleaning has not been completed when the battery died, the Trilobite continues cleaning when charging is finished in about two hours.



THE TRILOBITE can be left alone to do its job. It shuts off on its own and recharges its own batteries.

Dog shop goes into franchising

CANINE Depot, one of the country's leading dog and cat food, pet care and accessories retail shops, announces its opening for potential franchisees or partner entrepreneurs.

According to Eduardo Legarda, president of Petpro Inc., the mother company of Canine Depot, the move to venture into franchising is the company's answer to requests from customers to consider sharing the success of their business to others—particularly to dog and cat lovers who also wish to have a business venture of their own.

"Franchising offers a better alternative compared to start-up businesses because of the proven business formula inherent in franchised businesses, so the risk of failure is reduced. The success rate for entrepreneurs who engage in franchising is 97 percent compared to only 33 percent for those who set up entirement new businesses," says Legarda.

Canine Depot started as a small chain of pet shops called Tetra Pet Shop. Managed by a husband-and-wife team, they noted in the early 90s that the dog and cat food segment of their pet shop business contributed over 70 percent of their sales. Noting the increasing sales in dog and cat foods, they finally decided in 1995 to focus on dog and cat foods, pet care and pet accessories only and led to the establishment of Canine Depot.

Its outlets are in Alabang Town Center, Manddaluyong, Glorietta, Taytay, Katipunan, Filmore, M. Adriatico, Araneta Ave. and Robinsons Galleria.For franchising details, call 526-1090; 404-0057.

Brew remains . . .

From page B2-3

million.

The high cost is due to the imported ingredients and materials— from the paper cups to the coffee.

He says he hopes that the buy-out will give the international franchisee better prices for their raw materials.

Coffee Master's is part of the Roasters Group which also holds the franchise of Kenny Rogers, and Popeye's Chicken.

The Siy family used to own Solid Mills, which was started by a group that included Siy's father.

The group makes Jag and Lee jeans in the Philippines.

During the early '90s the family decided to go into the food business.

Initially they wanted to get KFC but lost out to the Ramcar group. They instead got Kenny Rogers and recently Popeye's Chicken.

Starbucks bought SCC for $72 million.

Outstanding offers from Hyundai

HYUNDAI Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) exclusive Philippine distributor of Hyundai passenger cars and light commercial vehicles now offers a financing promo where customers can acquire the all-time favorite Hyundai Starex for as low as P11,048 a month on a 50% down-payment and 60 months term.

Hyundai's "Take the Ooh (Outstanding Offers from Hyundai) Advantage", running from June 18 to July 17, 2003 presents flexible options to own the Hyundai Starex SVX, Club and Jumbo models.

Option 1 offers a free DVD/VCD/MP3 entertainment system with a 7-inch LCD monitor. A special deals awaits cash in Option 2 while Option 3 offers hassle-free financing terms to the customers: low monthly amortization, low down-payment or zero interest plan.

All transactions come with free LTO registration, tint, matting a one (1) year comprehensive insurance (only for down payment and low monthly amortizations terms), and the standard three years (3) or 100,000 kms. factory warranty.

For more information, visit any authorized HARI dealer at Hyundai E. Rodriguez Sr., Ave., 222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., QC Tel. #727-6394/251-0018; Hyundai Edsa, 451 Edsa Guadalupe, Makati City Tel. #882-2432/33; Hyundai Makati, 2307 Don Chino Roces Ext., Makati City Tel. #830-0013 to 17; Hyundai Ortigas, 500 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan Tel. #723-9101 to 07; Hyundai Quezon Ave., 1144 Quezon Ave., QC Tel. #374-3911/411-2720; Hyundai Bacolod, Araneta Street, Bacolod City Tel. # (034)433-3510/(034)435-0268; Hyundai Cagayan De Oro, Gusa Highway, Cagayan De Oro City Tel. # (088)855-4406-07; Hyundai Cebu, A.S. Fortuna St. Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu Tel. # (032)346-2724/(032)345-4146; Hyundai Davao Km. 8 Barrio Pampanga, Sasa Davao City Tel. # (082) 235-2955; Hyundai Iloilo, Doña Ramona Bldg., 38 Luna St., La Paz. Iloilo City Tel. # (033) 320-2064/(033) 320-4186; Hyundai Laguna, Areza Bldg., National Highway Brgy. Canlalay, Biñan Laguna Tel. # (049) 411-5650/(049) 520-8250; and Hyundai Pampanga, San Fernando-Olongapo Gapan Road, San Fernando, Pampanga Tel. # (045) 888-3241/(045) 625-9865. Soon to open is Hyundai Alabang, Alabang-Zapote Rd. Uno, Las Piñas Tel. #(0917)8414168/(0917)8928824. ADVT

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Ooh! Or you can decide to get the FREE DVD/VCD/MP3 entertainment system with 7-inch LCD Monitor. *(For both cash and Standard Bank Financing Rates Buyers only) - not availing of any of the other 2 options*

Photo may vary from actual unit.

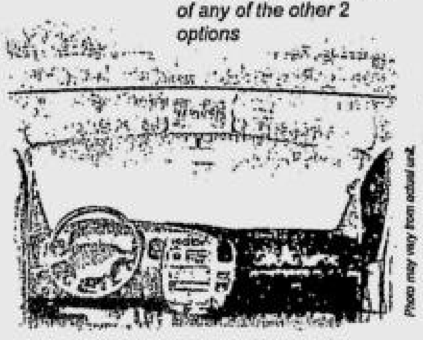

Photo may vary from actual unit.

LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION PLAN
Starex SVX MT

DP%	DP	12mos.	18mos.	24mos.	36mos.	48mos.	60mos.
20%	P186,000	65,646	45,058	36,370	26,016	20,992	17,968
30%	P279,000	57,223	39,274	31,704	22,679	18,300	15,661
40%	P372,000	48,793	33,490	27,038	19,341	15,607	13,355
50%	P465,000	40,366	27,704	22,373	16,004	12,914	11,048

LOW DOWNPAYMENT PLAN
Starex SVX MT

DP%	DP	12mos.	18mos.	24mos.	36mos.	48mos.	60mos.
20%	P166,000	67,605	46,455	37,510	26,889	21,742	18,657
30%	P259,000	59,154	40,648	32,821	23,528	19,024	16,325
40%	P352,000	50,704	34,841	28,133	20,167	16,306	13,993
50%	P445,000	42,253	29,034	23,444	16,806	13,589	11,661

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*** FREE 1st year Comprehensive insurance for Low Monthly and Low Down plans only*
****Subject to bank approval*

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(12 months; 50%downpayment)

Model	SRP	50% DP	NMI
SVX MT(10s)	P 930,000	465,000	38,750
SVX AT(10s)	P 980,000	490,000	40,833.30
CLUB AT	P1,140,000	570,000	47,500
JUMBO MT	P 935,000	467,500	38,958.30

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2592. Series of 2003.

Participating banks: BPI Family Bank, Union Bank,Philam Savings Bank, Philippine Savings Bank, UCPB, Equitable-PCI Bank, Metrobank, RCBC, Chinabank, International Exchange Bank.

All costs are exclusive of freight and handling charges.

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Opportunities

GMA, Roxas score victory for RP tuna industry

ON JUNE 5, the European community accepted the proposal to grant lower tariff on tuna products imported from Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia on a quota of 25,000 metric tons for the first year, and to increase by three percent on the second year. The Tariff Quota, or TQ, shall be in force for a period of five years. The share o the Philippines was pegged at 9,000 metric tons of canned tuna for 2003.

The creation of the TQ resulted from the mediation conducted by the World Trade Organization between Thailand, the Philippines, and the European Union (EU) when the Asean tuna exporters jointly protested the preferential treatment EU countries granted to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) at zero duty (0 percent) along with the Andean tuna producers. And it all began when Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas stood up at the Doha WTO meeting in November 2001 and refused to accept continued unfair treatment of Philippine canned tuna exports to the EU.

In a statement made by the Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines (TCAP), the association expressed deep gratitude to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Roxas for their unqualified support for the tuna industry in Southern Mindanao that led to this WTO victory. It also made special mention of Undersecretary Cesar Drilon of the Department of Agriculture for rallying the support of the fishing sector for this cause. TCAP further stressed that the TQ will not only arrest the continuing loss of jobs in the region; in fact, it will create new jobs and encourage investment in the areas surrounding the tuna processing centers of Socsargen and Zamboanga.

Under the Council Resolution, the operative instrument to identify canned tuna shipments under the TQ shall be specifically identified in the Certificates of Origin. Thus, only tuna actually processed by Philippine tuna canners may be eligible for entry to European ports at a reduced duty rate of 12 percent, from a high of 24 percent prior to the TQ. Philippine tuna canners procure more than 80 percent of their raw materials from Philippine fishermen, and will, therefore, directly benefit the fishermen of Mindanao.

Up to the last stages of negotiations, three European countries, namely Spain, Italy and France, strongly protested the lowering of the tariff for the protection of their own fishing industries. TCAP stated the persistence, savvy, and negotiation stance the DTI took at the mediation table along with Thailand precipitated a consensus among other members of the EU to approve the TQ.

The success of the DTI under the administration of President Macapagal on this matter will benefit over 117,000 workers in the tuna canning industry. Both the administration of fishermen and processors of tuna in Mindanao have also congratulated President Macapagal, Roxas, and Drilon for a true landmark victory on a problem that has been raised to the EU for more than 15 years.

ANOTHER FIRST FOR MARIKINA

Mayor Marides C. Fernando was the guest of honor at the grand opening of the First McDonald's McPartyHouse at Sumulong Highway, Marikina. Located just across the Marikina Sports Center (the home of the world's largest shoes), the McPartyHouse was built to give residents of Marikina and nearby towns and cities such as Pasig and Antipolo a 5-star party venue for their celebrations at unbelievable packages. The place can seat 150 people and will have a different party look every three months.

Technolux focuses more on after-sales service

TECHNOLUX Equipment and Supply Corp. boosted its 27-year-old trading and service company distributing top-of-the-line imported food service and laundry equipment for the hospitality industry. It has now focused more on the after-sales service as part of its long-term relationship with its clients. The company has improved its services by putting up a help desk that monitors clients' equipment purchase to Technolux.

Roland M. Verzosa, vice president and general manager of Technolux, said the help desk is the first-ever services provided in the food service industry. He said the time the client bought the equipment, it is already encoded in the Technolux's software system and its personnel can monitor the kind of problems occurring in every transaction.

As part of the support programs, the company has provided more than a hundred technical people on call 24 hours a day to cater to the needs of its clients. It has factory-trained, motorized and uniformed service technicians equipped with hand-held radios and cell phones so they can be reached anytime there is trouble. It also has a warehouse that enables the continuous supply of genuine spare parts. Equipment that need to be repaired for a long time is replaced first with service equipment so business would not be hampered. It also provides customer training so that clients would be able to get familiarized with its equipment. Clients can also the test kitchen for equipment testing and product development.

Technolux will be joining AsiaFood Expo 2003, the 12 International Exposition on Food Packaging, Processing, Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology on Sept. 3 to 6 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Products to be featured are the Manitowoc Ice Maker, Dean Fryer, True Chiller/Freezer, Taylor Soft Serve Machine and Lincoln Conveyor Oven.

AFPSLAI HIKES SCHOLARSHIP SLOTS TO 70

The AFPSLAI board recently approved the increase in the scholarship slots from 50 to 70 effective school year 2003-2004. When the Association's Scholarship Program started last school year, only 33 out of the 50 slots were filled up. For this school year, there was a good number of qualified applicants that the Board decided to increase the slots, which are all filled up this school year. Scholars come from the different regions with NCR and Region 6 having the highest number of scholars. The program is intended for AFPSLAI dependents who have strong academic potentials but are in dire need of financial assistance to pursue and complete the tertiary education. Aside from free matriculation in schools of their choice, the scholars are entitled to a monthly stipend of P3,000 and book allowance of P2,000 per semester. Scholars can choose from any of the following courses: information technology, business, education and agriculture or any of the two-year vocational course.

LJC RESTAURANT GROUP LAUNCHES INNER CIRCLE CLUB

The LJC Restaurant Group recently launched the Inner Circle Club at the Café Havana in Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. The Inner Circle Club was the brainchild of LJC founder and president Larry J. Cruz. The Inner Circle Club pioneer members were given recognition and were presented their official membership, while Johnny Walker Black Label, led by Victor 'Chuck' Janolino, marketing director of Diageo Philippines, saluted its male patrons by distributing gifts to the Inner Circle Club birthday celebrants and free drinks and discounts to the guests. The LJC Group raffled off prizes such as a trip to Boracay courtesy of South East Asian Airlines, LJC gift certificates, 'Malate' coffeetable books, and Johnny Walker Black bottles. The successful event signed up new members of the Inner Circle Club and is currently open to new members with attractive benefits, privileges and discounts. Shown are (from left) Rianna Ramirez (2 from left), Inner Circle Club manager, congratulating guest and raffle winner Graham Corbishley, as the Johnny Walker Black Label ladies hand over his prize.

JAZZ THE WAY YOU LIKE IT

It was a wet and stormy Tuesday evening June 17, but the weather did not dampen the mood at the Dusit Hotel Grand Ballroom, which was light and cool. It was a special night for jazz music lovers as Jewelmer and Air France brought together some of the top jazz musicians as part of the ongoing French Spring festivities. The crowd was a mix of diplomats from the French Embassy, Jewelmer models, Filipino jazz music lovers and influential people from top French and Filipino corporations lending their ears to some of the best music in town. Ding Basbas and the Upbeat Band provided the standards and Dixie selections. The Happy People played soothing tunes. The Jazz Friends performed a selection of mainstream jazz and the blues. Buhay Band filled the ballroom with jazz at its best. Capping the night was Eddie Katindig who, as expected, wowed the crowd with his solo spot improvisations. Setting the mood right for the night were 'F' show host Daphne Osena-Paez and Philippe Gauthier, chair of Asiatype Inc. Shown is Bingo Braganza, sales manager or Air France, with Angela Poblador, marketing manager of Jewelmer.

Glad rainy season price off

DURING rainy days, people would rather stay indoors so the family wouldn't catch rainy season diseases such as flu and common colds. To avoid unnecessary trips to the supermarket, make sure your pantry and fridge are well stocked. Proper storage of food, particularly frozen items and fresh produce, ensures that food preparation is stress-free and enjoyable even when the weather turns bad. Keep fresh fruits and vegetables fresh for a longer time by placing them in Glad Zipper Storage Bags, while meat, poultry and seafood items maintain their freshness in the freezer when stored in Glad Zipper Freezer Bags. The P10 OFF nationwide promo on Glad Zipper Storage and Freezer Bags is extended until June 30.

2nd Kapihang Entrepinoy

CSE'S 2ND Kapihang Entrepinoy, in partnership with the Entrepreneur Society of the Philippines and themed "The ABCs of Entrepreneurship", is set on June 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Senden Hall, Asian Social Institute, 1518 Leon Guinto corner Escoda Streets, Malate, Manila. For queries, call the entrepreneurship service hotlines 525-6268 or 523-9776, or text 0916-3037443.

First Quadrant event at Ultra

THE ULTRA in Pasig City was filled to the rafters as First Quadrant Philippines Inc (FQPI) celebrated recently its mid-year event. More than 10,000 business associates and guests trooped to the much-awaited milestone of the multilevel company.

Sec. Mike Defensor of the Housing and Urban Development Cordinating Council delivered the keynote speech. He underscored the contributions of FQPI in the alleviation of unemployment woes nationwide.

FQPI chair Socrates Tumpalan delivered the opening remarks and introduced Defensor. Company president Doyee Tumpalan formally launched the latest product catalogue together with new product lines available for distribution and sale by business associates.

Eleven business associates were also feted in the five-hour program. Success stories were presented on widescreen. Special tokens were presented to the so-called "Magnificent 11".

They are Romeo Almanza, Jojo Cecilia, Maricar Cruz, Ford Norman, Andrew Alda, Melvin Campilan, Allan Babanto, James Cervantes, Nelson Torres, and Garry Norman.

The high point in the evening was the reading of the Renewal of Commitment in a touching, candle-lit ceremony.

Joy Viado hosted the mid-year event with the Rage Band providing an entertainment number.

The midyear celebration of First Quadrant Philippines was a production of MMA Media Inc.

ProductFILES

Maybank and Jaguar: A tale of 2 cats

MUCH symbolism, mysticism even, surround the elegant cat. The tiger, for instance, is often associated with strength and leadership. The jaguar, on the other hand, represents boldness and sleekness.

As a corporate symbol, the tiger is most recognizable in the Asean region, being the symbol of the Maybank Group-the leading banking group in Malaysia. The jaguar symbol, meanwhile, is used by one of the world's elite car manufacturers, making the Jaguar one of the world's most sought after cars.

Jaguar Philippines Inc., in association with Maybank Philippines, has recently launched a financing promo for one of its popular models, the X-type. With the special promo dubbed as the Jaguar Bullet Finance, owning a Jaguar has never been made this easy. Monthly payments go for as low as P35,128 per month. Interest-free payment plans have also been made available.

Maybank, Malaysia's largest bank, has a solid backing of over $40 billion in group assets and ranked among Asia's top 20 banks. It is present in major financial centers worldwide including London, New York, Singapore and China. In the Philippines, Maybank started operations in 1997 and maintains an extensive network of branches nationwide.

Interested parties may call or visit any of the Jaguar showrooms for more details.

KANKUNIS AT BIKINI OPEN '03

Her slim, well-sculpted body, dynamism, and deafening audience rapport made Claudine Villanueva (shown) the unanimous choice for Ms Kankunis Body during the Bikini Open '03 held recently at Eastwood City-walk, Libis. She also bagged the Best in Swimwear Award. Phoebe Pablo, brand manager of Kankunis Herbal Slimming Tea, hands Claudine the cash prize and other awards, which include a year's supply of Kankunis.

Hang Ten convertible bags

CASUAL youth apparel brand Hang Ten reminds its loyal patrons that they still have until today, June 30, to avail themselves of the athletic and convenient convertible bags for free with every minimum receipt purchase of P900 of any Hang Ten merchandise. The Hang Ten backpack that can turn into a spacious and useful travel bag became a smashing hit, particularly among high school and college students since it was offered to the public May 15. It is available in fashionable blue and brown colors. There are 34 Hang Ten branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, and Pampanga. Loyal patrons may likewise visit Hang Ten's newest branches in Robinsons Sta. Rosa (Laguna), SM Bicutan and Cagayan de Oro, and Malabon CitiSquare. All Hang Ten products sold locally are imported.

Is it correct behavior . . .

From page B2-8

send chain texts.

9. When making business calls via cell phones make sure you do these during business hours. Having a cell phone does not mean that business contacts are available to you at any time. Respect the personal time of your associates and clients.

10. Remember that you should also practice these guidelines not only at business functions but also in social occasions.

I hope that this has helped you, there are many more cell phone etiquette guidelines but these should be sufficient to begin with. Always remember that the cardinal rule of etiquette is making those around you comfortable; as such, always take into consideration what others may feel based on your actions.

(Please email your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com. Names of senders will not be published.)

War vs fake CDs goes to Eastern Europe

BELGRADE—Like many young Serbs, Boban Brkic used to stock up on cheap pirate CDs openly for sale in shops and on street stalls during the turbulent rule of Slobodan Milosevic.

"I often bought one or two on the way home from work. They cost the same as a pack of cigarettes," recalled the 32-year-old former disc jockey. "My CD collection exploded." But those days came to a sudden end when the reformers who ousted Milosevic in 2000 finally clamped down on the rampant trade in fake goods, which robs Western manufacturers of many millions of dollars in revenue each year.

Under US pressure to clean up, the authorities moved in April to shut down Belgrade's main outdoor market for bootleg music CDs, movie DVDs and computer games and software. They also introduced jail terms of up to eight years for offenders.

"It was assuming huge proportions in our country," said Sasa Zivanovic of the Interior Ministry's economic crime department.

"We had to have a strong deterrent." Piracy cost the cash-strapped state about 50 million euros ($57.73 million) in annual tax income, he said.

Most vendors were now off the streets and many had pulled out of the business altogether, even though sales via the Internet remained a problem, Zivanovic added.

The crackdown helped Serbia and Montenegro, the loose union that replaced Yugoslavia in February, to avoid inclusion on an annual US list of countries with the worst record of protecting copyright material and other intellectual property.

Piracy Patriotism

The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA)—a consortium of US publishing, film, software and recording industry groups—had recommended that the Balkan country be added to the government list published in May.

This could have hurt its access to the US export market as well as efforts to join the World Trade Organization.

"The former Yugoslav government, led by Slobodan Milosevic, openly encouraged piracy of Western copyright products as an act of patriotism," the IIPA said, referring to the time when the country was under international sanctions in the 1990s.

"As a result, until recently, piracy levels of foreign products . . . were close to 100 percent." The US music industry lost $14 million in 2002 from piracy in Serbia, it said. As it is much smaller than counterfeit hotspots like Russia and China, this is just a fraction of the $22 billion the problem cost US copyright industries globally.

The Balkan republic with a population of 10 million is believed to have plenty of potential for legal sales once the black market is brought under control.

"I think it is going to be a great market for all kinds of recorded music," said Stefan Krawczyk, director eastern Europe for the International Federation for Phonographic Industries (IFPA), a London-based trade association.

He welcomed the new Serbian drive to combat piracy but said it remained widespread and that much more was needed to bring it down even to the relatively high levels of roughly 30 percent in south European countries like Spain and Italy.

"There has been a rather spectacular change in attitude but we are still light years away from a satisfactory situation." Most of the street kiosks that sold illegal copies of the latest music hits, sophisticated computer programmes and new blockbuster movies have disappeared from Belgrade's streets. *Reuters*

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BUSINESS Monday

Is it correct behavior to send text messages while in a business meeting?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q: COULD you please give me some do's and don'ts of cell phone etiquette that I can circulate around my office. It has become such a nuisance to hear cell phones ringing or beeping. Is it correct behavior to keep sending text messages while in a business meeting or even a business lunch? This happens all the time where I work and I was hoping you could give me some tips on how to manage this at the office.

A: Cell phones have become an absolute necessity in this day and age and I am glad you asked this question because there is a major need out there especially in the work/business environment to practice proper cell phone etiquette.

Guidelines on cell phone etiquette:

1. Unless you have a private office, keep your cell phone on silent (vibrating) mode at all times. There is no reason why you should announce to the entire office that you are receiving text messages or phone calls.

2. When in the company of others, especially during a meeting, a business lunch or dinner, keep your cell phone on silent mode. Do not answer your phone or send text messages when you are conversing with other people, particularly if you are in a meeting.

3. If you are waiting for an important call, inform your colleagues ahead of time, simply say, "I hope you don't mind, but I am expecting a very important call, is it OK if I leave my phone out (on silent mode) while we are meeting?"

Do this only if it is absolutely necessary for you to take a call while meeting with someone.

4. The better option is to turn off your phone entirely when you are meeting with business associates whether it is an internal meeting or with clients. As such you will not have several missed calls and frustrated callers trying to get through when you do not pick up because you are at a meeting. Use your voice mail function for this purpose. Tell the callers to leave a message and you will get back to them as soon as possible. Just make sure that you actually return the phone call before the end of the business day.

5. Never send text messages while you are at a meeting, this is a very rude thing to do and will certainly send the wrong impression.

6. Try not to speak louder than usual when using your cell phone, most people have the tendency to raise their voice when using wireless phones and particularly when using hands free devices, be considerate of the people around you.

7. Always remember that the number one rule in etiquette is to make the people around you more comfortable and nothing is more irritating than someone who pays more attention to their cell phone than what is actually going on in a meeting.

8. Do not waste your time sending jokes, riddles, novenas and the like to your business associates. This does nothing in terms of building a business relationship. It is unprofessional. Keep this practice on a social level if you absolutely have to

IS IT CORRECT/ B2-7

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1.6 J A/T	₱99,000	29,777	21,393	15,020	145,320
1.6 E M/T	₱99,000	31,019	22,286	15,648	148,620
1.6 E A/T	₱99,000	32,748	23,536	16,526	153,360
1.6 G A/T	₱99,000	34,995	25,142	17,656	159,360
1.8 G A/T	₱99,000	40,014	28,749	20,191	172,920

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

Coming soon: Film on SARS

PORTES

By Marinel R. Cruz

ALTHOUGH the World Health Organization (WHO) has taken the Philippines off the list of countries affected by the dreaded Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), only a few Filipinos understand how serious the disease really is.

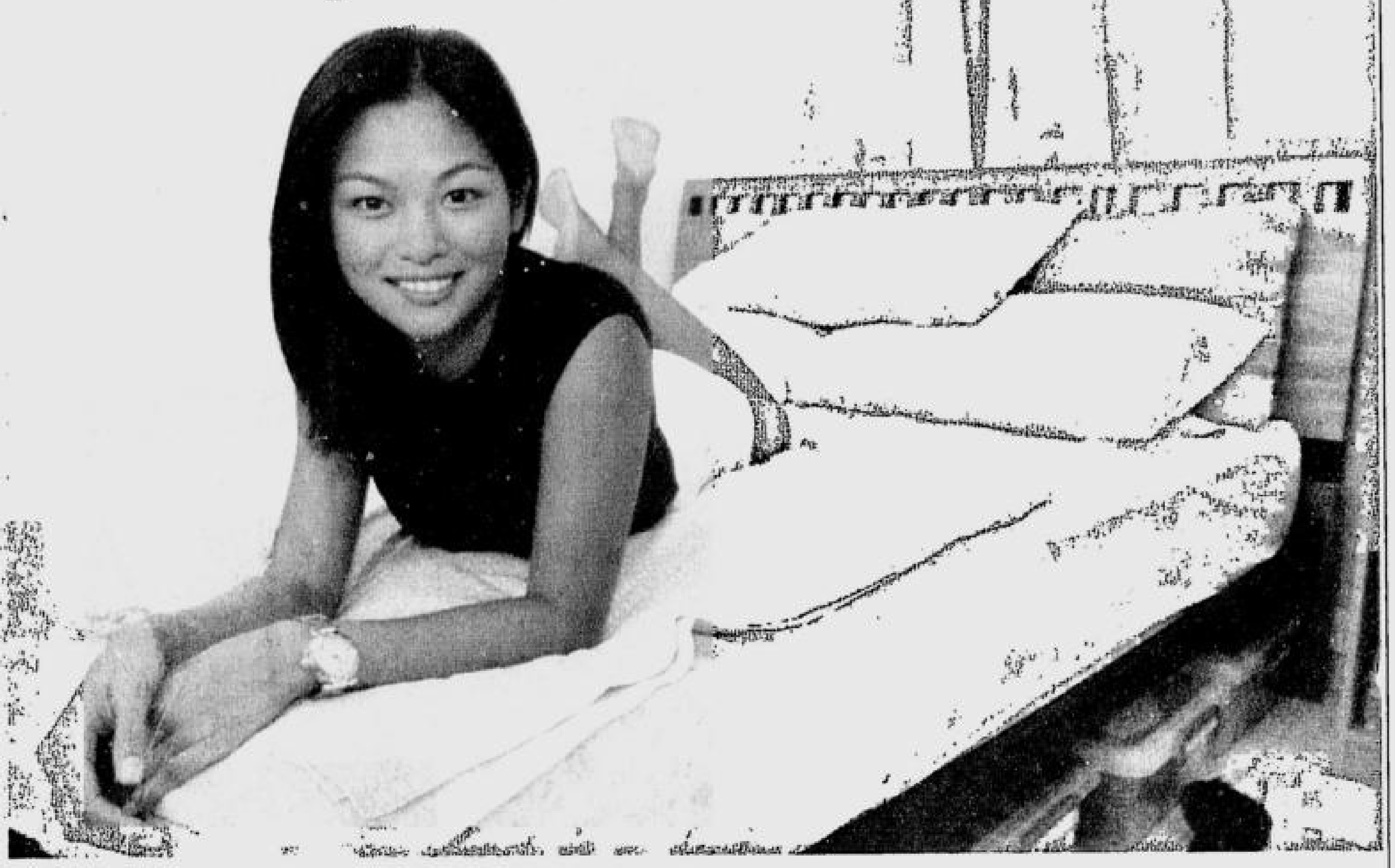
To help spread awareness about the disease, Gil Portes, award-wining director of the critically acclaimed film "Mga Munting Tinig," said he is making a new movie called "Homecoming," which he described as "something special."

"Sars is all over the world," Portes pointed out. "China has a movie about it. So does Hong Kong. I felt we should also create one film on how Filipinos were affected by it."

He stressed: "But this is not a clinical film. Like 'Munting Tinig,' it will be simple and heartwarming."

COMING/ C2

Fit for a queen /C4



MIRIAM QUIAMBAO caught in bed

RANDY HORMILLOSA

DID YOU KNOW...

One night last week, **Phillip Salvador** played good dad to his and **Kris Aquino**'s son, Josh. Phillip and his son, together with the boy's *yayas* and driver, had dinner at the Gloriamaris Restaurant along Wilson Street in Greenhills, San Juan. And Josh played good son, too. An eyewitness said that every time the boy would get noisy, Phillip would simply put a finger to his lips to hush him. Josh would quiet down, at the same time imitating his father and putting a finger to his own lips. After the dinner, the driver brought Josh and the *yayas* home. Phillip went home alone.

ZULUETA wears fashion jewelry she creates.

Amazing Dawn

By Ansel Beluso
Contributor

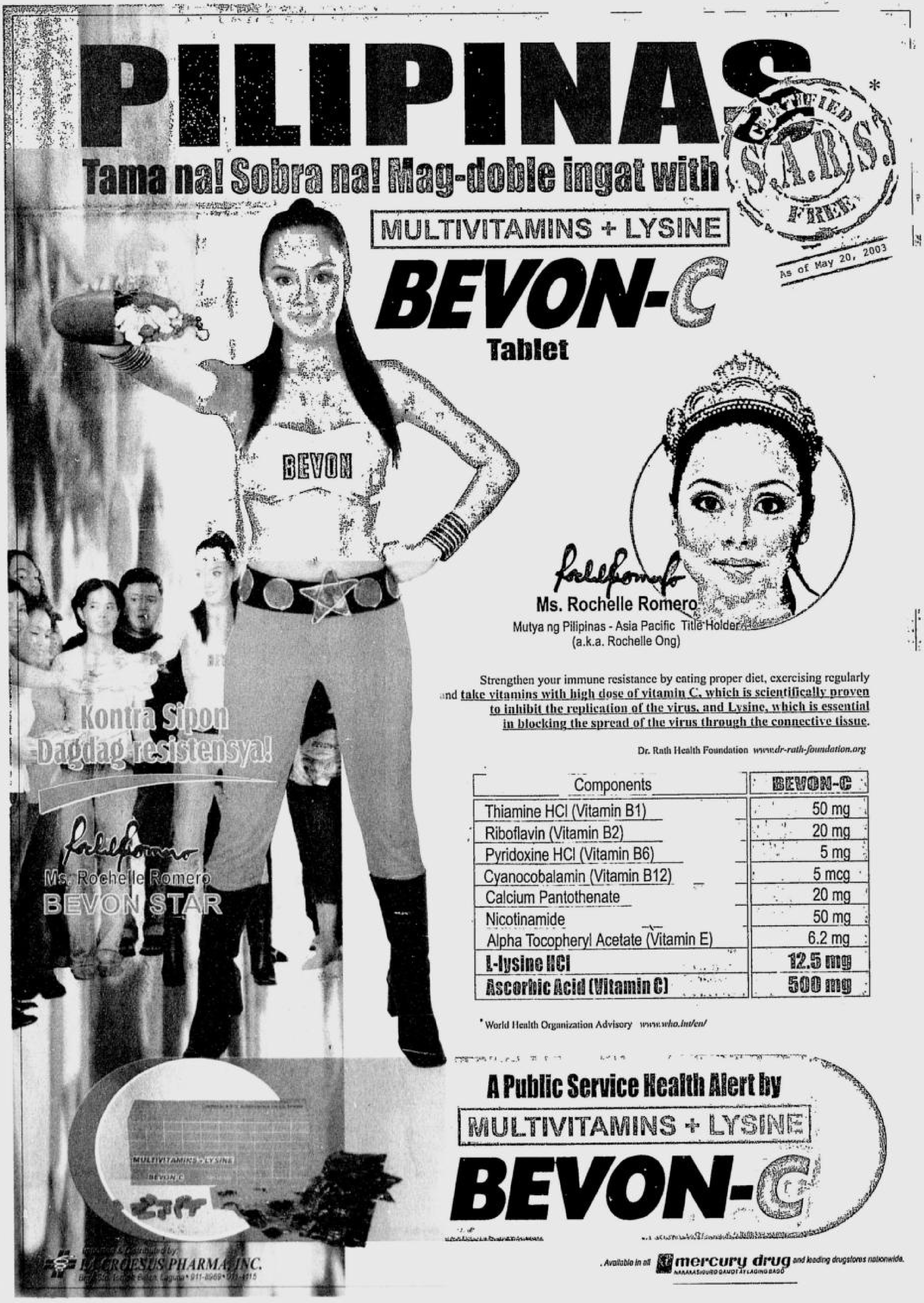
"I'VE always wanted to be just a housewife," beauteous Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo declares in between takes of GMA 7's "All About You" which she hosts for just one season.

(Lucy Torres-Gomez first hosted the show for a season, and, we hear, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski takes over also for a season after Dawn has done her stint.)

Dawn insists she loves her simple, uncluttered life now as wife of Anton Lagdameo, scion of the rich Floirendo and Lagdameo clans of Davao. Hers is not a boring life, and she hardly misses the roller-coaster existence she used to have as a movie star.

"I've always been a reluctant star," Dawn

AMAZING/ C2



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'Make NBN a truly public system'

By Elizabeth Lorenzana-Diaz
Contributor

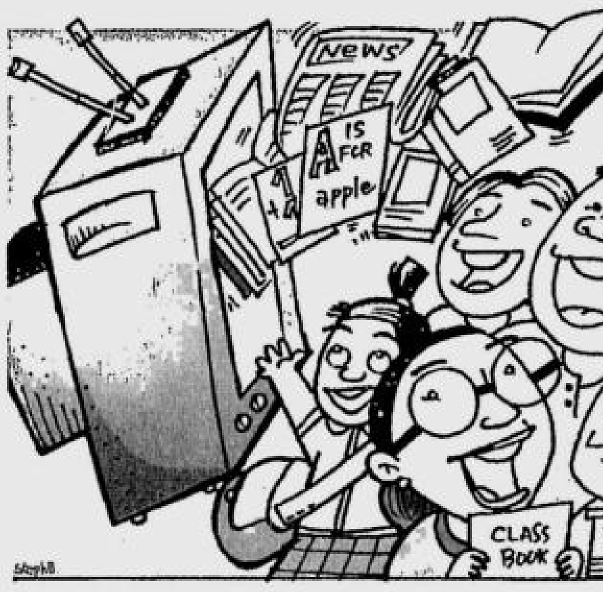
SCHOOL days are here again, and so are the perennial problems of our educational system.

We seem to be unable to solve the lack of classrooms, books and instructional materials; the shortage of teachers, exacerbated by the exodus to tempting opportunities and high-paying jobs abroad; and the low quality of learning due to lack of qualified teachers, despite the technological advances just waiting to be tapped for education and national development.

We have grossly neglected the vast potential and power of innovative approaches to teaching-learning systems, primarily those of radio and television. Broadcasting has been extensively and successfully used in education since the 1930s by many countries led by the United Kingdom, the US, Australia and Japan.

Some people believe that the fast recovery of Japan from its World War II devastation can be attributed to some extent to the NHK educational broadcasts.

Radio and television have been found to be cost-efficient and effective, if not more effective in some cases than the traditional system. Radio in particular is cheap, portable, instantaneous, reaches a large population including those in the remotest and isolated areas, it can be understood even by illiterates, young or old, and it is easy and simple to use.



Both radio and television can be applied to all levels of education in all modes—formal, non-formal, and informal—and can be used as complementary, supplementary and for direct classroom teaching. Broadcasting can also provide training for out-of-school youths and adults for vocational, technical, literacy, teacher education and a variety of other activities.

It is in this area that broadcasting has had spectacular results as experienced by many countries.

Fulfill the promise

Television has the added advantage of being a visual medium, combining the use of graphics, models, film, demonstrations, etc., making it a powerful learning medium, although it is more costly than radio. Broadcasting can provide the best teachers and the best materials for whatever educational purpose.

The 1987 Constitution provides that the State recognizes the "vital role of communication and information in nation-building" (Art.II, Sec. 24) and mandates the State "to provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced flow of information..." (Art. XVI, Sec. 10).

It is in this light that we urge the government to fulfill its promise to convert NBN, the government network, into a public broadcasting system which will provide an alternative service to the excessively commercialized private networks which have neglected to offer programs to meet the needs and interests of the public, especially the marginalized and the minority.

Converting NBN into a public broadcasting has long been delayed.

The worsening deterioration of the quality of education in the Philippines puts a strong pressure on the leadership to muster the "political will" to finally implement the conversion of NBN, which greatly suffers from lack of credibility.

Independent, impartial

Educational broadcasting must be made a permanent component of the educational delivery system as a matter of national policy. An organized, deliberate, systematic and sustained undertaking is needed to exploit the full potential of broadcasting in the service of education and development.

As a public broadcasting system, it is expected to be independent and impartial, and to provide access and participation to all through programs that are responsive to the needs and interests of the people. Its structure and funding should be insulated from political, commercial pressure.

We, the Concerned Women of the Philippines, wholeheartedly agree with the Unesco report at the International Commission on Education for the 21st Century that education is an indispensable tool and "one of the principal means available to foster a deeper and more harmonious form of human development and thereby reduce poverty, exclusion, ignorance, oppression and war."

We believe that the conversion of NBN into a public broadcasting could be the most worthwhile and meaningful legacy the leadership can leave to the Filipino people.

(The author is chair of Media Advocacy of the Concerned Women of the Philippines.)

Amazing Dawn

From page C1

continues. "Show business has always been just a good way to make money, something I had to do because I was the breadwinner of the family."

Swept by whirlwind

Dawn's hazel eyes crinkled as she smiled at the remembrance of the days when she led the hectic show biz life, cramming the million and one things she had to do in one day—tapings, shootings, pictorials, TV guestings, promo tours, press interviews, etc.

"I practically lived on a suitcase then," she says. "And even before I got married, I was already thinking of lying low. When you're swept by a whirlwind, you don't breathe anymore. And, I thought, that wasn't the way I wanted to live my life."

But she hastens to add she doesn't regret any of the wonderful years she has had in show business. "It's just that that career-woman-movie-star phase in my life is now over and I'm moving on, and I'm happy that I am."

So, what's her day like now? "Laid-back and peaceful," she says. "I wake up at seven in the morning, by which time Anton is already out of the house. My mornings are for managing the house—I check on supplies, pay bills, give instructions and errands to household help, see to it that everything is running well. In the afternoon, I go to the gym. By the time I get home, it's time to prepare dinner—or *merienda* if Anton is coming home early. By nine in the evening, I'm asleep."

Friends old and new

This kind of charmed life allows Dawn to concentrate on things she had always wanted to have time for before but didn't. "Like family, marriage has slowed me down. I now have time for family. I come from a broken home. My parents separated when I was 12 and vulnerable. Now, I belong to a family unit that's normal, strong and stable.

"Anton's family always has a get-together or birthday or reunion or whatever. And, actually, the family doesn't need a reason to be together. With them, I'm just like everyone else and this has allowed me to shed off the star image that I had before."

Dawn now also has time to invest in friends. "Before, I was quite afraid to develop friendships because, in show biz, as the saying goes, there are no permanent friends, only permanent interests. Now, I have old friends from way back with whom I have reconnected, and lots of new friends in Davao, *mga kahatakan*, people I go to the grocery with, explore new things with, or just talk with about the most ordinary things."

Aside from family and friends, Dawn is happy that she now has all the time for her passion to create things.

"I paint, I draw, I design, I make little things that people who have everything would like to have. Like, I create home decor, high-end novelty items, fashion jewelry from semi-precious stones. And I not only supply or have a booth in bazaars, I am also a bazaar organizer. This gives me big-time fulfillment."

He fought for her

Fulfillment. That's the word that, Dawn says, best describes her life now. And she has her husband to thank for everything.

"I love him so much and I've never regretted giving up everything for him. Not that giving up show biz was such a great sacrifice, but I did make a lot of big adjustments for my new life with him."

Dawn proudly proclaims that her husband loves her very, very much. "So much that he was able to turn his back on the people that mattered to him. He fought for me when his family didn't know me enough yet so they had certain reservations about my suitability as Anton's wife. Now, they love me and have taken me as their own, especially Anton's mom, who is such a blessing."

Why does she still need to work? Why does she go back to show biz once in a while?

"For one, I can always use the extra dough," she admits. "In the first years of my marriage, it was necessary for me to enjoy my new life with my husband and I had to focus on that, especially because we didn't have a trouble-free adjustment period. Now, I can pursue my other dreams like hosting, playing in front of the camera, just being myself.

"I began desiring to host a TV talk show when I guested in the pilot episode of 'All About You' with Lucy. I thought, this was the kind of show that personified who I am."

A whole new world

But aside from her occasional show biz outings, Dawn is quite serious about her arts and crafts. Aside from expressing herself, she hopes to provide livelihood for others.

"As of now, I do everything—from sourcing raw materials to stringing together beads to make bracelets and necklaces. But I plan to export my products. With this, I hope to help the wives of the *travajantes* in Anton's family's pineapple plantation in the south. You see, the wives of the workers in the banana plantation in the north already have extra income from *tnalak* fiber which they turn into bags and place mats."

Dawn amazes us. Marriage, indeed, becomes her. It opened a whole new world for her. What else is lacking in her life?

"Anton and I want to have a baby, of course," she says. "But I don't want to force it. I don't want to argue with God. If He wills it, He will gift us with a child in His time."

Rannie, Dessa, acoustic-style

RANNIE Raymundo and Dessa will perform in "Acoustic Rhythms" on July 25 at the Music Museum, with Songbird Regine Velasquez as their special guest.

"The show will be 90 percent singing and the spiels will be kept to a minimum because in a concert the music should be the star," says Rannie.

The repertoire of Rannie and Dessa will range from jazz to rock, pop, R & B and even novelty songs, rendered acoustic-style.

Tickets are available at Music Museum Ticketron and all Ticketworld outlets.

Coming soon . . .

From page C1

According to Portes, "Homecoming" is the story of Abigail (Alessandra de Rossi), a Filipina caregiver in Toronto who comes home to her small village in the Philippines without knowing that she is carrying the dreaded disease.

"It will show how the disease affected Abigail's relationship with her family, especially her mother, Salve (Elizabeth Oropesa), and her small community," Portes explained.

Portes said he is working again with the Teamworks Productions group, headed by scriptwriters Senedy Que and Adolf Alix Jr., which also teamed up with him on "Mga Munting Tinig."

Also in the cast of "Homecoming" are Brian Homecillo, who won several best child actor awards for "Mga Munting Tinig," and Bembol Roco.

The new movie is set in a fictional small town. Portes is using a community in Tiaong, Quezon as the setting.

He said that this early, organizers of the Toronto International Film Festival has expressed interest in screening "Homecoming" in the next festival in December.

Portes noted that, ironically, Canada is one of the world's "SARS centers."

He said that bringing "Mga Munting Tinig" to film festivals in foreign countries forced him to deal with the SARS scare himself.

"The sight of people wearing masks in airplanes and at airports gave me the shivers," he recalled.

He said that although the scare over the disease has tapered off or even disappeared in many parts, "we still need to be vigilant and cannot be complacent."

Filipinos in Toronto hit the headlines when 500 Filipino members of a Catholic charismatic group, Bukas Loob sa Diyos, were ordered quarantined after one of its members died of SARS last April.

The Filipino community in Toronto is said to be the largest in Canada.

The approximately 4,000 SARS cases reported worldwide were concentrated in Hong Kong and China.

Reports said that as of June, the virus has killed 334 Chinese, 284 of them in Hong Kong.

May Nucleotides ba ang gatas ng iyong anak?

Soggy comeback performance

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Thursday, we made it a point to watch "Magpakailanman" on GMA 7 because the show's episode that night featured the comeback performance of erstwhile movie queen **Susan Roces**.

For years now, producers have been trying to convince Susan to return to acting, but she's consistently begged off—until this year. She's agreed to act again in movies by way of "Mano Po, 2" for the Metro Filmfest this December, but her TV comeback was effected much earlier on last week's "Magpakailanman."

So, how did the much-admired veteran actress do in the show? To her credit, she gave her performance everything she had, but it was compromised by the episode's excessively tearjerking storytelling style.

Susan was made to cry so often during the 90-minute drama that she wasn't able to assert her previously proven versatility as an actress. That was a pity, because a star of Susan's stature deserves a more impressive and challenging showcase than the one she was given on "Magpakailanman," which concentrated too much on her talent's lachrymal aspect.

Which is not to say that Susan did badly on the show. Some of her scenes did come across movingly and vividly, but too much of the same rendered similar scenes later in the episode redundant, and her performance failed to peak.

> Susan deserves a more impressive and challenging showcase

Susan played a mature woman who had little in life aside from the love of her husband and children. That was good enough for her, but when her husband died, money became a problem, and this put a strain on her relationship with her children, especially with her eldest daughter, who became the family's breadwinner.

While she didn't mind working hard, she did resent her youngest sibling, because she was mentally slow and eventually became an epileptic, and because one of her seizures triggered their father's fatal heart attack.

Susan worked herself to the bone as a washerwoman and *yaya*, and the enmity between her two daughters further drained her of energy and spirit.

When the youngest daughter left home after a fight with her *ate*, Susan's world completely fell apart. A particularly painful experience for her was her having to go to the morgue to identify a young girl's body. Although it turned out that the dead girl wasn't her daughter, the ordeal was too terrible to bear for Susan's character.

Susan played this challenging scene well, but it soon became only one of many similarly emotional scenes that she had to essay, so the total effect was numbing instead of truly moving.

In their decision to give Susan a tearjerker for her comeback showcase, the people behind the show may have hoped to tap into the vast and loyal audience for emotional and melodramatic stories of this sort. The show's ratings will probably affirm their decision, but our focus is not on the program's fortunes, but on the fact that someone of Susan Roces' caliber needs to go beyond predictable material like this, especially for her acting comeback on TV.

Well, let's hope that Susan accepts another offer to act on TV soon, in a teleplay that will challenge her to come up with a performance that will showcase the full range of her thespic skills, rather than just her ability to cry herself a river and whip up an emotional storm.

'One'

MCA Universal's compilation of hits, "One," gathers 19 of the music world's hottest acts.

Cuts include "Without Me" by **Eminem**, "Dilemma" by **Nelly**, "Happy" by **Ashanti**, "A Thousand Miles" by **Vanessa Carlson**, "Maybe" by **Enrique Iglesias**, "Through the Rain" by **Mariah Carey**, "Come Away with Me" by **Norah Jones**, and "Electrical Storm" by U2.

An SMS contest about the album's contents is being aired until August on the ABC-5 shows "Kool on Kam" (Monday to Friday at 7:30 p.m.) and "By Request" (Thursday at 10:30 p.m.).

A similar contest is also being held on Kool 106 radio.

ROCES. Someone of her caliber needs to go beyond predictable material.

US record firms want Gary

VALENCIANO. Standing ovations and negotiations

SHOW TIME

GARY Valenciano's US tour, part of his 20th year in the entertainment industry, was more fruitful than he expected.

Several Nashville-based American Christian recording artists signified their desire to record three of Gary's most powerful gospel compositions.

After giving his testimony at the Bethel Community Church, and right after his first live concert at Nashville's Acuff Theater, Gary was approached by several members of the music industry who were eager to work with him.

Jason Perry of the popular Christian boy band Plus-One asked for the rights to record Gary's "Shout for Joy" for a solo album.

Club Records' Jonathan Pierce indicated his desire to record "Could You Be Messiah," a song (lyrics by Freddie Santos) that has touched millions of lives. It was composed by Gary for the first Trumpets musicale, "First Name" and it was used by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in its international outreaches through a music video starring Gary himself. It is also used by CBN (Christian Broadcasting Network) USA for its fundraising projects.

At the Jubilee Christian Center in

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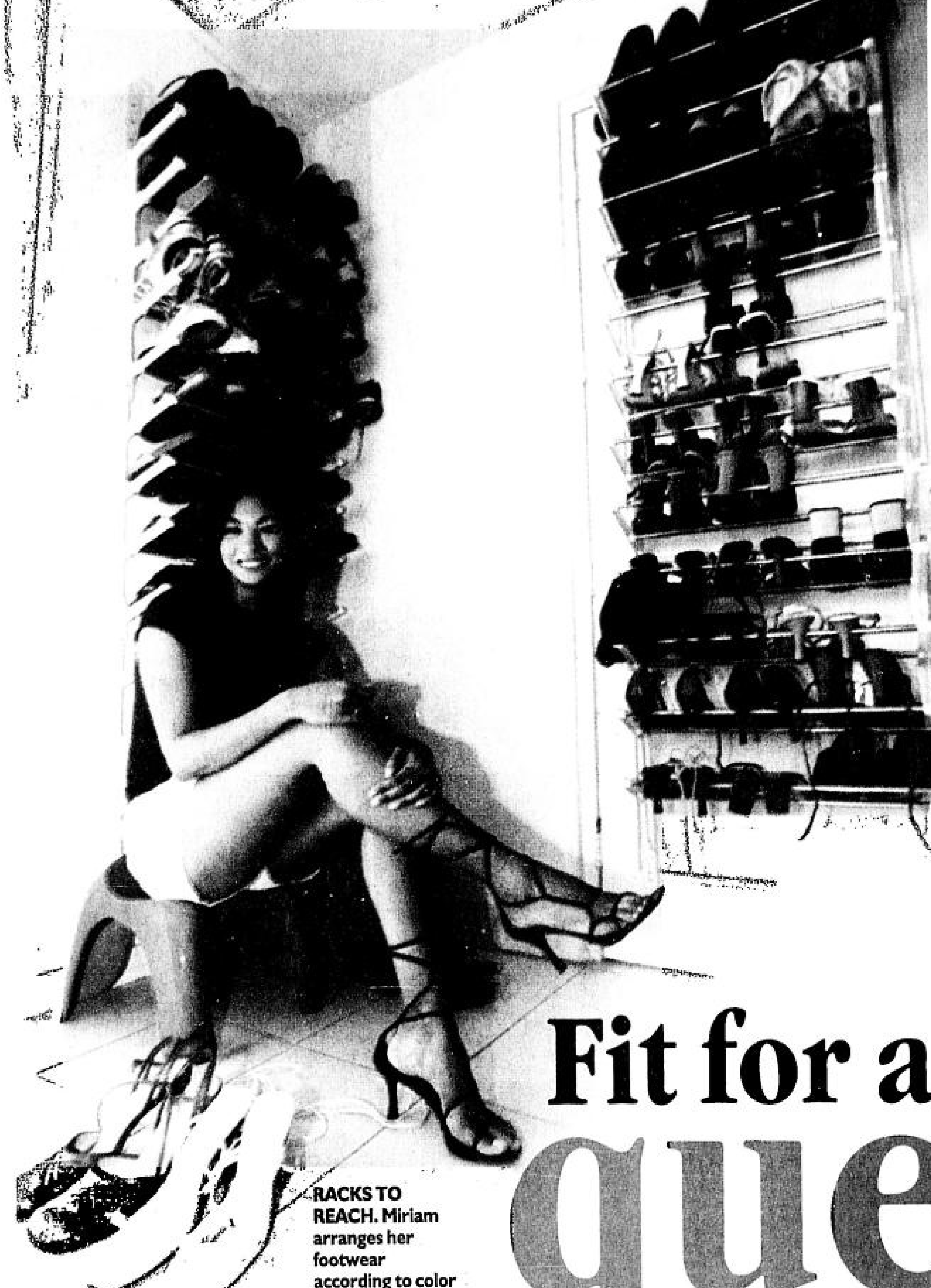
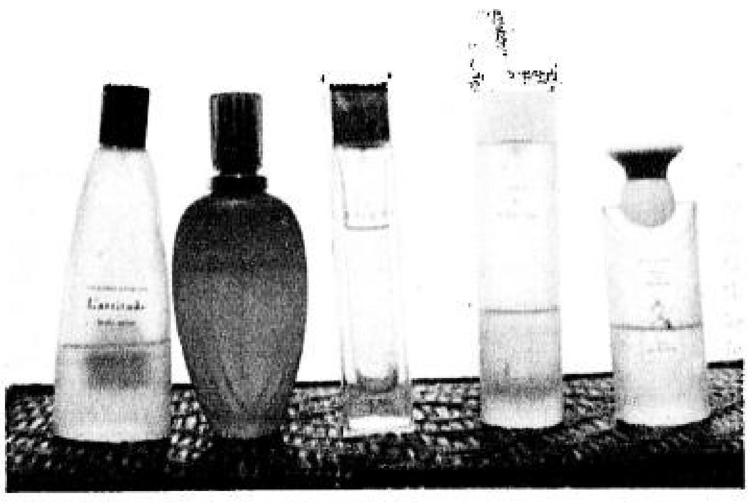
Per E.O. 51 CA #050-2003, June 27, 2003

'I splurge on clothes because I love to dress up. I buy dresses which I only wear once or twice'



RACKS TO REACH. Miriam arranges her footwear according to color and heel size.



MIRIAM loves perfume and has a lot of them.

PHOTOS BY
RANDY HORMILLOSA

Fit for a queen

By Leah Salterio

THE QUEZON City flat of beauty queen-TV host Miriam Quiambao doesn't have the usual trappings of a celebrity's residence. It is modest, modern, clean and has the comforts fit for a single and busy working woman like Miriam.

The flat is also close to her place of work, GMA 7, where she hosts the daily afternoon magazine program, "Xtra, Xtra." Miriam used to share the flat with a female friend, but after the latter moved out, Miriam chose to live alone.

"A maid from my parents' house comes once a week to get my laundry and bring it back," Miriam says. "By now, I'm used to being alone. Sometimes, my friends hang out here. We drink a little, watch movies or just chat. This place is very ideal for me."

The flat, which is on the fourth floor of a low-rise building, has two bedrooms. After her flatmate left, Miriam converted the vacated room into her own walk-in closet. She herself designed the room, with shelves for her bags, shoes and clothes. Her uncle, a contractor, built the shelves which are covered with white curtains to complement the room's white, minimalist motif.

"I used space-saving techniques because of the limited space," Miriam says. "I want everything organized or I would find it hard to look for my things."

TIME'S UP, courtesy of a Cartier from her boyfriend.

One multi-layered shelf holds Miriam's white shirts and baby tees which she likes to wear with denims, skirts or shorts. Another shelf is devoted to her bags.

BOXED in are her accessories and knick-knacks.

Her accessories, underwear and knick-knacks are neatly kept in boxes in another closet.

"I like accessorizing," she says. "I can wear basic clothes, but a nice necklace can make them look different. I buy my accessories from CYP at the Greenhills Theater Mall."

Three nature chests, which she brought home from Phuket, Thailand, double as containers for her other things.

The shoes on the rack are arranged according to color and heel size. She has another rack for rubber shoes and open-toe sandals.

While some of her clothes come from her sponsor Chocolate (available at Rustan's), Miriam also goes for designer brands. Some clothes in her closet still have price tags.

"I splurge on clothes because I love to dress up," Miriam says. "I buy dresses which I only wear once or twice."

In her bedroom, there are clothes in plastic boxes under the bed.

On the shelf above her laptop computer is a framed photo of Miriam and her Italian boyfriend, Claudio, who is based in Hong Kong. Beside the photo is an Italian dictionary.

Miriam, 28, says she and Claudio see each other at least twice a month, when he visits Manila. On weekends when he can't leave Hong Kong, he charters a private plane to bring Miriam to Hong Kong so they can have lunch or dinner. The same plane flies Miriam back to Manila.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

The two met in a function that Miriam had emceed. Claudio came with Mai-Mai Cojuangco and her Italian boyfriend, who is Claudio's best friend.

"I already took him to Boracay, Puerto Galera and the San Benito Farm in Batangas," Miriam offers. "Next month, we are planning to go to London and Italy."

Miriam's living room is adorned with wooden decors which she has gathered from different places. A Chinese rice container which she got from a night market in Quezon City doubles as a stool when Miriam has visitors. In one corner near the balcony stand thin Ifugao wooden sculptures, horses by Contreras from the Museum Shop at SM Megamall, a lampshade from Glorietta, a stone-engraved container from Vietnam, a *kamagong* tobacco box from Quiapo, an antique box from a shop in Kamuning and a wooden artwork from Palawan.

A redwood chest from Hong Kong is a gift from Claudio. On top of it is a brass sculpture by Michael Cancio.

CLAUDIO'S CHEST, a redwood, is another present from her Italian boyfriend.

Miriam wakes up at 7:30 a.m. and goes straight to the gym at Fitness First at ABS-CBN.

"I go to the gym and the spa a lot," she says. "I also go to the parlor at Salon de Orient for hair treatment, Tips and Toes for my nail spa, Vicky Belo for my facial or derma. We have to maintain our looks. That goes with the job."

Favorite shoes. "My black Gucci strappy stilettos given by Claudio which I call my bad girl shoes. My tan Nine West and my white Janilyn, which is my sponsor in 'Xtra, Xtra.'"

Favorite watch. "Cartier, given by Claudio."

Favorite bags. "I bring this Christian Dior leather belt bag when I travel. It looks like a holster. I also love my Celine suede handbag and a beaded bag from Nepal which I got from Miyo, a store in Greenbelt 1."

Favorite sleepwear. "My Marks and Spencer blue and white floral nightie, which is a birthday gift."

Favorite perfumes. "I wear different kinds of perfume because I have lots of them. I love Coco Chanel, Polo Sport for my sporty days, Bulgari's Petits et Marrans, Escada's Tropical Punch, Gucci's Envy, Gap's Dream and Latitude by Crabtree and Evelyn."

Favorite jeans. "Chocolate has the best jeans I have found anywhere. They really fit my butt, are perfect on my thighs and a bit flared at the bottom. They're imported from Australia and the fabric is good. They're reasonably priced, too."

Favorite jacket. "I have this cotton polyester jacket which looks like suede or felt. I wear it with jeans or over a tank top."

Favorite accessory. "A long bead necklace from Wish at 6750 in Ayala Center."

Favorite formal wear: "My gowns are by Frederick Peralta and Rhett Eala."

ACCESSORIZE, ACCESSORIZE. A nice accessory can make a basic dress look different, she says.

The fast, persistent, hard-hitting men of dzMM

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IN ITS 17 years of existence, the image of dzMM, the AM radio of ABS-CBN, has been greatly boosted by broadcasters **Angelo Palmones, Vic de Leon Lima, Neil Ocampo, Korina Sanchez** and **Jake Maderazo.** Some have left to pursue other fields of interests, such as **Ted Failon** who is now a congressman in Leyte, and **Gel Santos-Relos**, who is now based in Minneapolis with her family.

Today, even field reporters get a chance to become radio anchors. Two of them in the dzMM roster are **Gerry Baja** (Radyo Patrol 25) and **Anthony Taberna** (Radyo Patrol 28), who team up on the daily MM wake-upper "Gising Pilipinas," which starts at 4 a.m., Mondays to Fridays. They also anchor the hard-hitting daily news program, "Dos Por Dos," 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Palmones, the station manager, started training reporters on the weekly investigative show, "Ito ang Radyo Patrol," which aired in 2000 with the purpose of developing new anchors. On weekends, the reporters would take turns in hosting with Palmones and presenting the results of their investigations and news gathering.

After a few months, Palmones chose Baja to become his regular co-anchor on the show. Soon after, Baja was asked to choose a cohost and he picked Taberna. Baja and Taberna, who call Palmones their "mentor and tormentor," had worked together at Eagle Broadcasting's DZEC before joining dzMM.

Deserving

"We did 'Ito ang Radyo Patrol' for 10 months and we edged out the show of **Joe Taruc, Deo Macalma** and **Ruth Abao** on dzRH, which was in the same time slot," Baja says.

Baja and Taberna were eventually given their daily radio program. **Julius Babao** and **Tintin Bersola** replaced them in the Saturday time slot with a new radio program.

"Gerry and Anthony were among the two reporters who excelled in 'Ito ang Radyo Patrol,'" says Palmones. "That's why I felt they deserved their own radio show."

"Gising Pilipinas" places Baja and Taberna among the new breed of radio reporters-commentators who work fast and are energetic and persistent.

"After 10 months of doing an early morning radio show, I still have to adjust to waking up as early as 3 a.m.," says Taberna, a mass communications graduate of New Era College.

"It's very fulfilling to know a lot of people listen to us as early as 4 a.m.," adds Baja, also a mass com graduate, from the Lyceum University. "We get a lot of phone calls and text messages to the 'dzMM React' question everyday."

Mornings good

They call themselves "Los Cumbacheros," instead of "Compañeros."

"When we tackle legal issues, we know we're not an authority, so we simply call ourselves 'Cumbacheros,'" Taberna says.

Their "Dos Por Dos" precedes Korina's daily radio show. Before them is **Neil Ocampo**, 5-7 a.m., followed by Palmones who reads the daily news from 7 to 7:30 a.m.

Although Baja and Taberna also aspire to be on TV one day, they cite the advantages of being on radio early in the morning.

"You don't have to really look good for it," Taberna says. "And even if we take the jeep or go to the market, no one recognizes us because they only know our names."

After their morning programs, Baja and Taberna have other day jobs. Baja does desk work and trains reporters, while Taberna covers the Malacañang beat.

Listen and talk

Maderazo is the man behind "Pulso ng Bayan," the Saturday morning show which has been on the air for 15 years. "Pulso ng Bayan" gives listeners a chance to call in or text their opinions and suggestions on issues affecting their lives.

"Jake makes it a point to listen to everyone who has something to say on his show," Palmones says. "Jake knows what people like and he is able to be in touch with the sentiments of the ordinary Filipino. He listens with no prejudice, but of course, he also talks, and how he loves to talk."

Maderazo is also vice president and managing director for the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) and overall in-charge of the news program, "TV Patrol." He was also responsible for other successful ABS-CBN programs like "Hoy Gising" and "Alas Singko y Medya."

dzMM has started introducing a new concept of educational programs on radio, "so broadcasters will not be confined to commentaries," says Palmones. "We have several activities now in the pipeline and we are looking for partners so we can implement them," he adds. "Everything will be done in line with our 17th anniversary next month."

Lectures

Among the activities is the forthcoming "Buntis Congress," which will gather 1,500 pregnant women on the 4th floor of Robinson's Galleria. It is being done with the Department of Health and the Midwives Foundation of the Philippines.

"It's a program to promote maternal care and it's also a campaign for safe motherhood," says Palmones. "We started announcing it in mid-June, and we've attracted 900 participants to date. In the congress, pregnant women can get free immunization and check-up."

There will also be educational lectures inspired by dzMM programs. "Suso Arangkada" promotes breastfeeding and was taken after Neil Ocampo's "Todo Arangkada."

"Dos Por Dos" promotes family planning, while "Paksa" from the show of **Tina Monzon-Palma** lectures about gestational diabetes.

"Daddy Ko, Daddy Kool" for fathers is from the program "Haybol Pinoy."

'28 Days Later'

FROM best-selling author and screenwriter **Alex Garland** ("The Beach") comes "28 Days Later," a film about virus accidentally unleashed from a primate research facility which can abruptly turn those infected into a permanent state of killing rage. Impossible to contain, the virus quickly spreads and eventually turns the city of London into a ghost town.

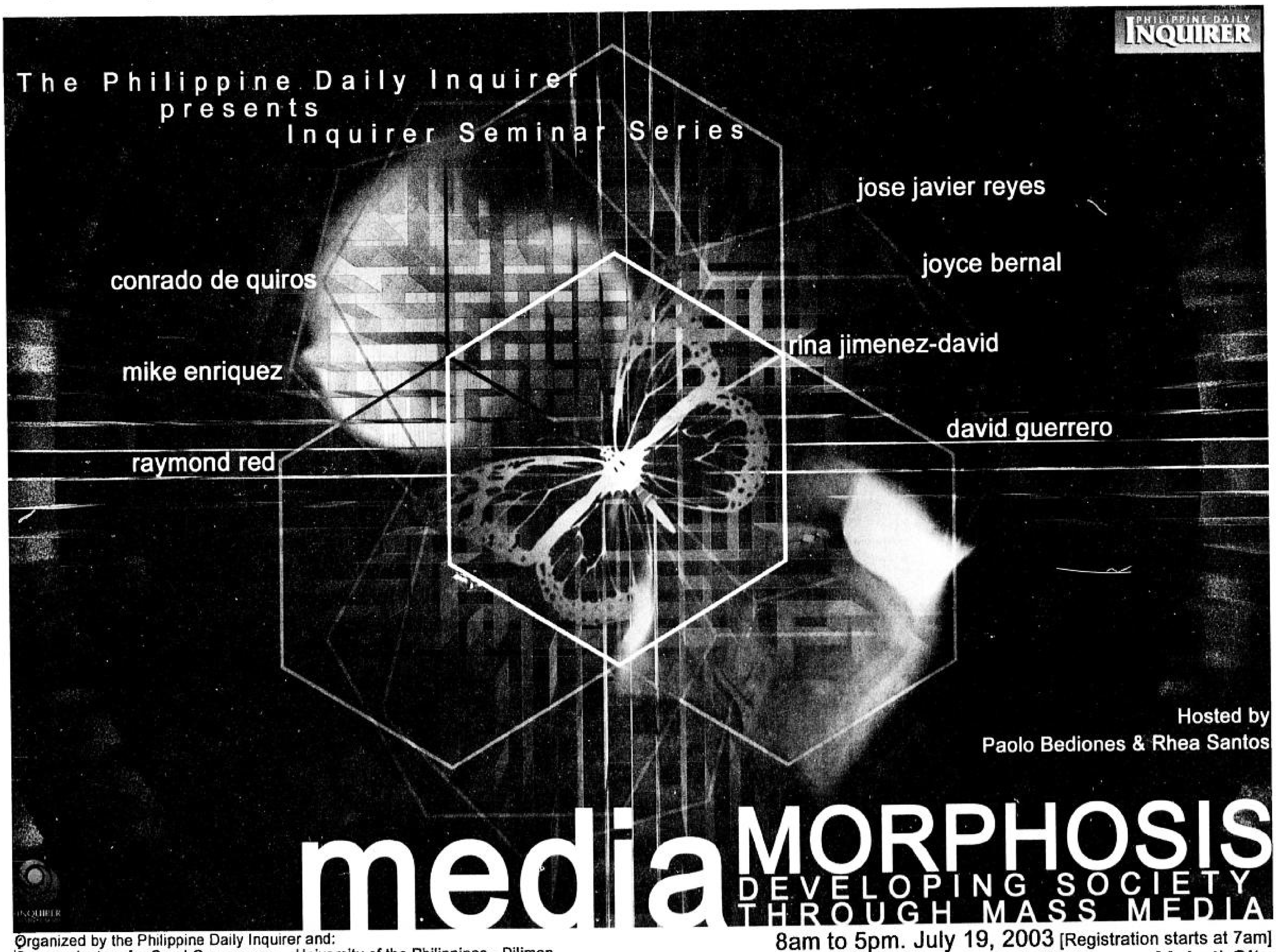
Yes-FM 101.1 premieres "28 Days Later," 7:30 tonight at SM Megamall Cinema 1. The suspense thriller is produced by Twentieth Century Fox.

For promos and free tickets, tune in to Yes-FM 101.1, a member of the Manila Broadcasting Co. (MBC), which owns and operates the largest radio network in the country and in Asia.

MADERAZO, the voice behind "Pulso ng Bayan"

TABERNA, Baja's choice

BAJA, picked by Palmones



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2	HULK	PUNCH DRUNK LOVE	HULK 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 10:15	CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
3	ANG TANGING INA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX CHARLIE'S ANGELS 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20		GUARANTEED SEATS HULK 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 11:00	HULK
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL TOHROTTLE	ADAPTATION		GUARANTEED SEATS ADAPTATION 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	ANG TANGING INA
5		ANG TANGING INA		GUARANTEED SEATS CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 2:05, 4:25, 9:05, 11:25	ADAPTATION
6		CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE			
7		HULK			
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(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

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3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE HULK
4 (SDDS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
7	THE HULK

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2	KAPIT BAHAY
3 (DTS)	THE HULK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

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2 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	THE HULK

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

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3 (DTS)	THE HULK
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

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2	SANIB
3 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	

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(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
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3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
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Magic Star Cinema

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1 (DTS)	
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2	ANG TANGING INA
3	

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10	SANIB

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8	TUMITIBOK,KUMIKIROT
9	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
10	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
11	DARKNESS FALLS
12	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	ADAPTATION
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7	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8	TUMITIBOK,KUMIKIROT
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12	ANG TANGING INA

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7	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11	SANIB
12	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT

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4	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5	ADAPTATION
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	HULK
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	HULK
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	SANIB
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
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9	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
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3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
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2	HULK
3	ANG TANGING INA
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2976998

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2	ALAB NG LAHI
3	HULK
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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2	HULK
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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3	ADAPTATION
4	HULK
5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	CHARLIES ANGELS 2

Metro East - Marcos hway

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1	ANG TANGING INA
2	HULK
3	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	HULK
6	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
7	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
8	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Novaliches

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1	HULK
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
5	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6	HULK
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	HULING BIRHEN

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2	HULK
3	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4	HULING BIRHEN

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1	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3	HIRAM
4	REAL CAN CUN
5	HULK
6	RING 0

Imus

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1	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	HULK
5	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT

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2	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3	DAYO
4	KAPIT BAHAY
5	CHARLIES ANGELS 2

Bacolod

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1	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2	HULK
3	BIGAY HILIG
4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
5	FRIDA
6	REAL CAN CUN

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2	ALAB NG LAHI
3	HULK
4	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
5	BERTUD NG PUTIK
6	HIRAM

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US record firms want Gary V

From page C3

San Jose, before some 3,000 Americans, Gary received a standing ovation right after he sang "Take Me Out of the Dark." The new version of the song is in Gary's "Interactive" album, which was sold out within 10 minutes after the show, bought mostly by Americans.

In Los Angeles, Don Griffin and Rick Waite, president and vice president of the music store West LA Music, met with Gary and his wife Angeli, president of Manila Alpha Genesis Publishing, to discuss Gary's songwriting. They were presented copies of Gary's "Beyond Words" instrumental album.

This same album caught the attention of Emmy winner Andrea Romano, voice director for animation at Warner Brothers and co-producer of "Tiny Toons" with Steven Spielberg. Andrea asked Gary if he would consider scoring a film in Hollywood when she saw him at the 9th Asian-American Entrepreneur Awards at the US Grant Hotel in San Diego where Gary was the main performer. The affair was attended by some of the prominent business leaders of the Asian communities in the USA, including Fritz Friedman of Sony Pictures and publicist Winston Emano.

Gary also performed at concerts in Atlantic City, Nashville, San Francisco and Chicago. He appeared on the TV program "The 700 Club USA," live in Virginia Beach, where host Gordon Robertson referred to him as "my favorite singer" twice.

Gary treasured quality time spent with his two younger children 14-year-old Gabriel and Kiana, 10, in between concerts and appearances. He was also joined by the Genesis big boss, his sister Gina Martinez and her daughter Lesley.

They all flew to Miami, Los Angeles and Orlando to visit Gary's mother, Grimilda Santiago Ortiz, and other relatives.

Gary was the musical director in the wedding of Donita Rose and Eric Villarama at the Bacara Resort in Santa Barbara, California.

In Manila, preparations are underway for a series of weekend concerts at the Music Museum, dubbed "Gary V - Hits Music Museum." It will also feature the Ugoy-Ugoy Band with special guests.

Showdates are Aug. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 and Sept. 5 and 6. Interested show buyers may call Ayen Garcia at 721-4405.

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	TANGING INA
Ali 2	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
Ali 3	THE HULK
Ali 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
Ali 5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
Ali 6	THE HULK
Ali 7	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

ARANETA COLISEUM

JUNE 30	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JULY 5	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JULY 6	PBA GAMES
JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 13	UAAP GAMES
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
B	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CINEMA-2	SANIB
CINEMA-3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-15	HULK

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA 2	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA 3	HULK
CINEMA 4	AGENT CODY BANKS

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 12:35,2:55,5:15,7:35,9:55	THE HULK PG13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00	THE HULK PG13 12:00,3:00,

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CINEMA 2	THE HULK 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:20 PG13

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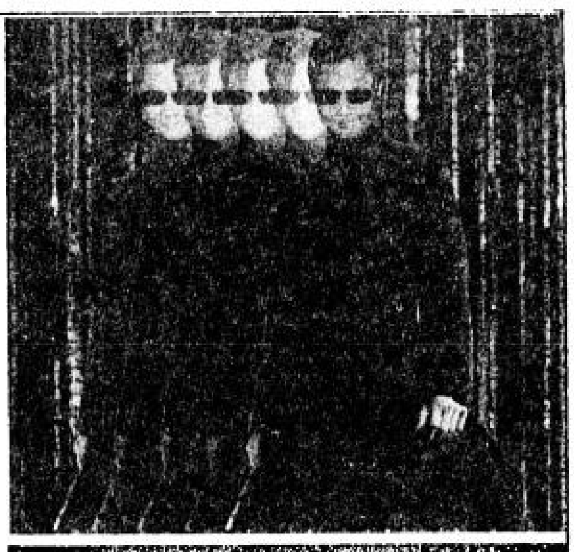

Onstage

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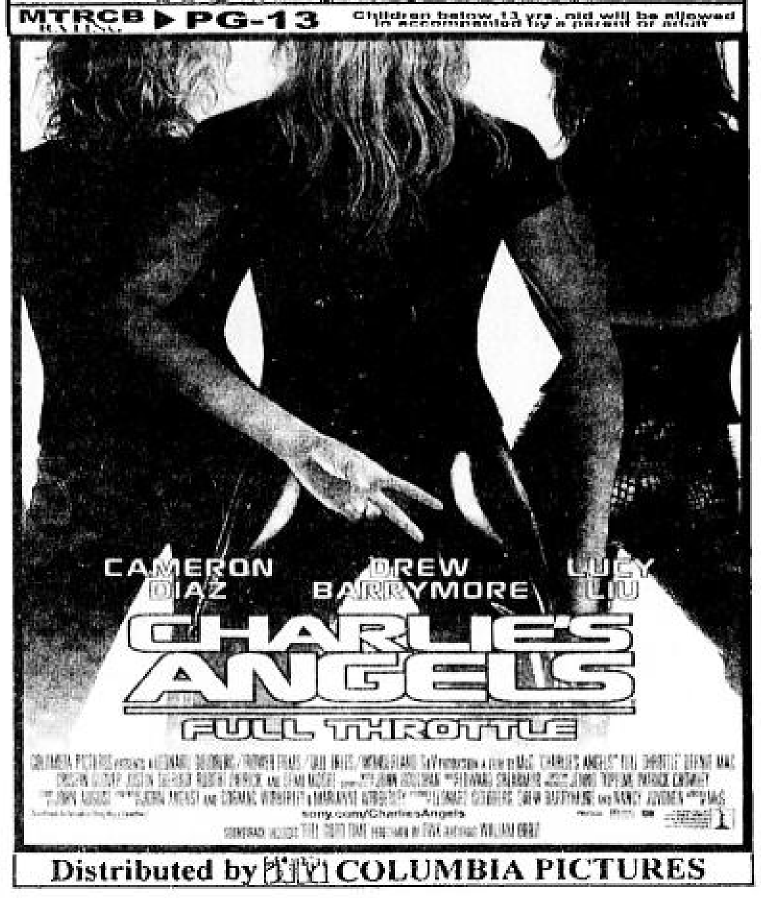

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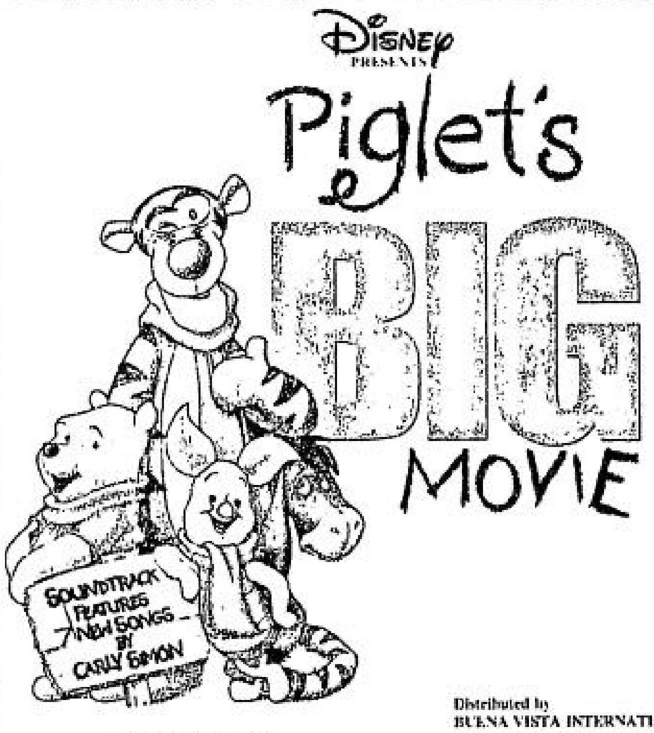

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PALACE FILMS

ENTERTAINMENT

1st for Sandler, 2nd for Costner

LOS ANGELES—Comedy actor Adam Sandler has gone from "Punch-Drunk Love" to holy matrimony.

Sandler, 36, over last weekend married his longtime girlfriend, model/actress Jackie Titone, in a private ceremony, his publicist said on Monday. The couple reportedly met in 1999, when she appeared in Sandler's movie "Big Daddy" and in the Rob Schneider comedy "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," which Sandler executive-produced. She was also in Sandler's horror comedy "Little Nicky."

Sandler's films include "Anger Management," "The Wedding Singer," "The Waterboy," "Mr. Deeds" and "Punch-Drunk Love," which earned him a Golden Globe nomination.

Oscar-winning actor-director Kevin Costner will marry for the second time, his publicist said Thursday.

"He is engaged to be married to Christine Baumgartner," said publicist Michelle Bega. "They were introduced four years ago and have been dating since then. No date for the wedding has been set."

Costner, 49, was formerly married to his university love Cindy Silva. They have three children together.

In January 1997, a blood test also showed Costner was the father of a baby boy, Liam, born in November 1996 following a brief relationship with television reporter Bridget Rooney.

For Baumgartner, 29, it will be a first marriage.

Costner, who is promoting his movie "Open Range," set to open Aug. 15, made a major splash in his first time out as director with "Dances with Wolves." It won seven of 12 Oscars for which it was nominated, including best picture and best director.

But his career also has faced its flops, most notably the futuristic big-budget, small-box-office "Waterworld."

AFP, Reuters

SERIOUSLY, Sandler kisses his bride.

REUTERS

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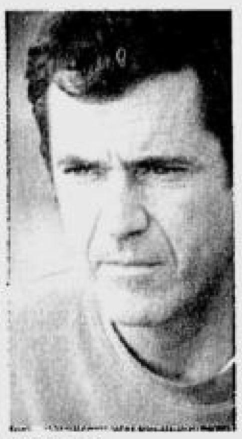
'Holy Ghost worked' through Mel Gibson



GIBSON

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—Mel Gibson says he attended Mass every morning while shooting his new movie, "The Passion," because "we had to be squeaky clean just working on this."

The film, which Gibson directs, stars James Caviezel as Christ during the last 12 hours of his life and Monica Bellucci as Mary Magdalene. The $25-million production was shot in the Aramaic language of the time, but there were subtitles for Thursday's showing.

Gibson said his Christian faith inspired the film. He is still looking for a distributor.

"I'm not a preacher, and I'm not a pastor," the 47-year-old director-actor said. "But I really feel my career was leading me to make this. The Holy Ghost was working through me on this film, and I was just directing traffic. I hope the film has the power to evangelize."

Gibson said the film "was a strange mixture of the most difficult thing I've ever done, along with this incredible ease. Everyone who worked on this movie was changed. There were agnostics and Muslims on set converting to Christianity."

AFP

Dog patch named after Errol Flynn

FLYNN

HOBART, Australia—The first home town memorial for Tasmanian-born Hollywood idol Errol Flynn went to the dogs this week when Hobart city council named a canine exercise run after the swashbuckling screen hero.

After some acrimonious debate over the questionable morals of the famous actor who died in 1959, the council voted seven to four late Monday to name the doggy patch Errol Flynn Reserve.

Local lore has it that the Battery Point reserve is adjacent to the Hobart beach where the young Flynn learned to swim.

"Some aldermen felt he was not a fit and proper person to have a reserve named after him because of his immoral background," said alderman Peter Sexton, who backed the move.

"There was particular concern about his reputation for sexual activity with underage women and drug taking," Sexton told Australian Associated Press.

But Flynn's Hobart roots won the day on the city council, although the decision still has to be approved by state authorities.

"One would hope that they won't be too prudish about it," Sexton said.

Flynn was born in Hobart's Battery Point in 1909 and lived in Tasmania on and off until the age of 16 when he headed off to become a British policeman in New Guinea.

He did not begin acting until the 1930s and in 1935 went to Hollywood where he became an overnight star as "Captain Blood." Flynn went on to become the talking pictures' leading portrayer of heroes in epics including "The Charge of the Light Brigade," "The Adventures of Robin Hood," "Dodge City" and "They Died With Their Boots On."

The head of the Tasmanian Errol Flynn Society, Bob Casey, suggested the film hero would appreciate the irony of his first hometown memorial.

"Errol had a wonderful sense of humor," he said. "Having his name on a dog park—he would have been rapt with that.

"He was definitely a dog lover. In a way, it's quite appropriate."

AFP

Arts/Design LIFESTYLE

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National Artist's family donates prize money

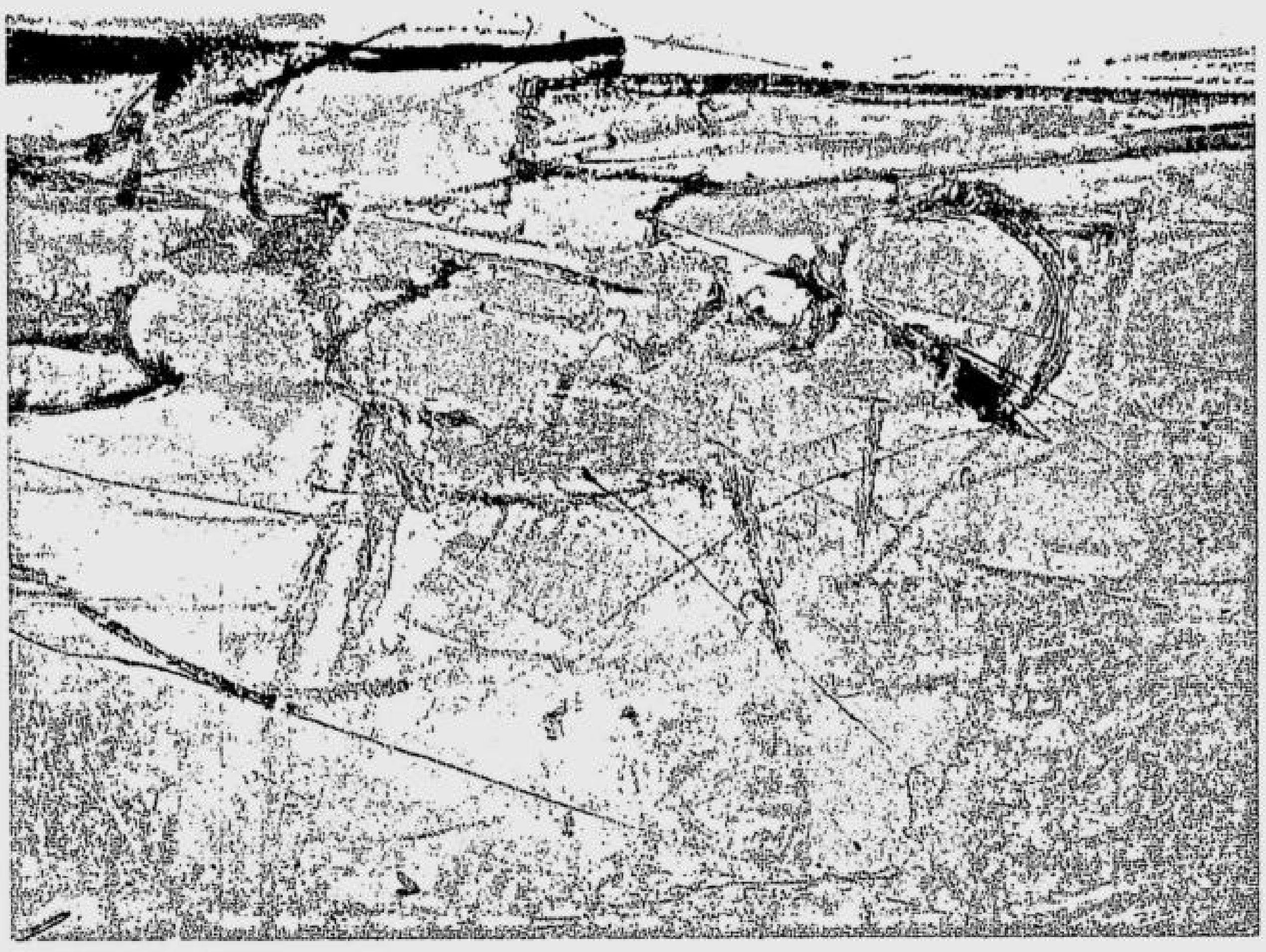
By Linda B. Bolido

THE P75,000 prize money given to painter José Joya, this year's National Artist for Visual Arts, has been donated to the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP), the Association for Philippines-China Understanding (Apcu), and the University of the Philippines-Visayas (Cebu) College of Fine Arts.

Josie J. Baldovino, sister of the late former dean of the University of the Philippines Diliman College of Fine Arts (UPCFA), announced the donation during a thanksgiving reception hosted by her family after the awards ceremonies at the Malacañang Palace.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo presented the award to the new National Artists. Aside from Joya, who was honored posthumously, other National Artists are Salvador Bernal for Theater, Virgilio Almario for Literature, Eddie Romero for Film and Alejandro Roces for Literature.

The new National Artist for Visual Arts served as president of both AAP and Apcu, two of the beneficiaries of the prize money. He helped establish the College of Fine Arts in Cebu to encourage art students in Visayas and Mindanao.


"BLUE Landscape"

Baldovino said being named a National Artist was a fulfillment of Joya's long cherished dream. She thanked those "who believed in him, believed in his art and kept the faith."

The thanksgiving reception was held at the San Agustin Plaza in Intramuros and catered by the Makati Skyline, which prepared an Asian-inspired buffet. Tenor Nelson Caruncho, with Lea Capulong at the piano, sang.

Lunch was attended by some of the top names in the Philippines' arts and culture scene.

They included Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) president Nestor Jardin, National Museum director Cora Alvina and her predecessor Fr. Gabriel Casal, Bencab, Al Perez, Raul Isidro, National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Ramon Orlina, Rock Drilon, AAP president Fidel Sarmiento, Tam Austria and Charito Bitanga Peralta, Fine Arts dean of the Philippine Women's University.

Apcu was represented by Lynn Sunico, president; Rachy Cuna, vice-chair; Santos Co, vice president; Charito Planas, Lito de Dios, Henry Tong and Andrea Edang. The association was among this year's nominators of its former president.

In its resolution nominating Joya, Apcu noted that the late UPCFA dean was one of the Philippines' most awarded artists, receiving, among others, The Republic Cultural Heritage Award in Painting and Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award in Art (1961), Gawad CCP para sa Sining Bisual (1991), Asean Award for the Visual Arts (1990), the French government's Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres, and Manila's Diwa ng Lahi Award (1994).

The CCP also named Joya in 1999 one of the 100 people who contributed to the development and progress of Philippine art and culture.

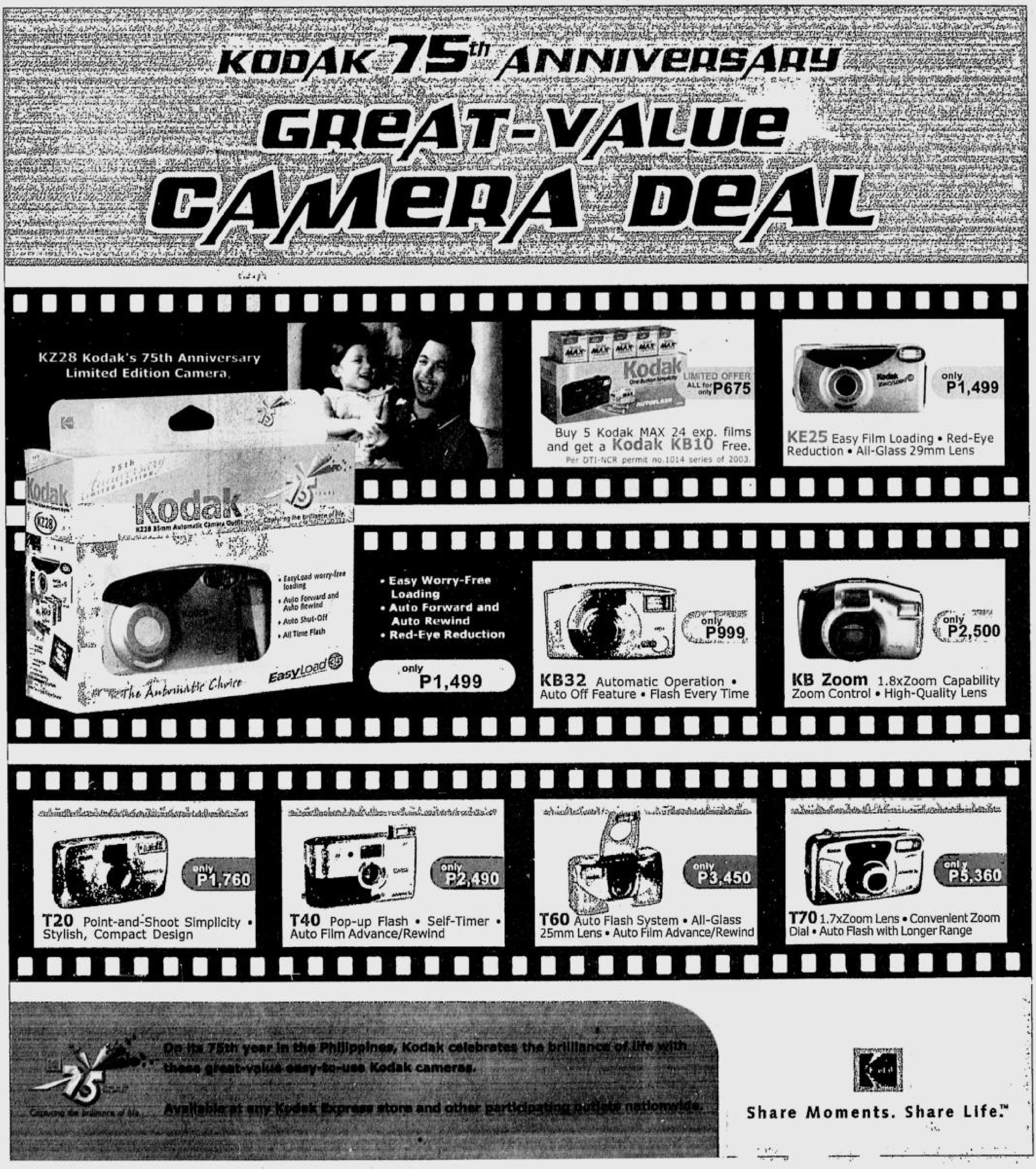
José Joya's sister thanked those 'who believed in him, believed in his art and kept the faith'

Cuna said Apcu credited Joya with reviving and revitalizing the association by organizing not only cultural exchanges but even food festivals when he was presented in 1988-95. The Apcu vice chair for international relations said the late artist was the prime mover in organizing activities, like art exhibits, to give both the peoples of China and the Philippines a better and deeper understanding of each other's culture.

In its nomination, Apcu also cited the artist's efforts to encourage and nurture young talents by helping establish the Fine Arts program in UP Cebu and establishing in 1976 the Joya Annual Art Competition.

As professor and later dean of the UPCFA in Diliman, the artist taught and continued to

NATIONAL/ D4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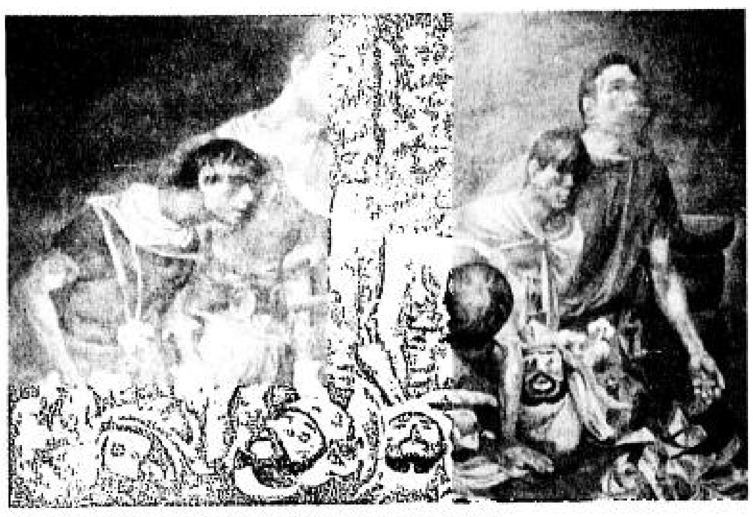
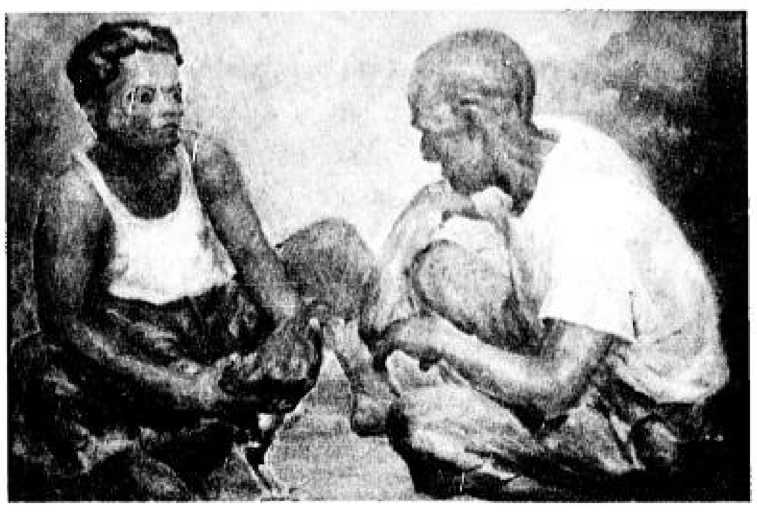
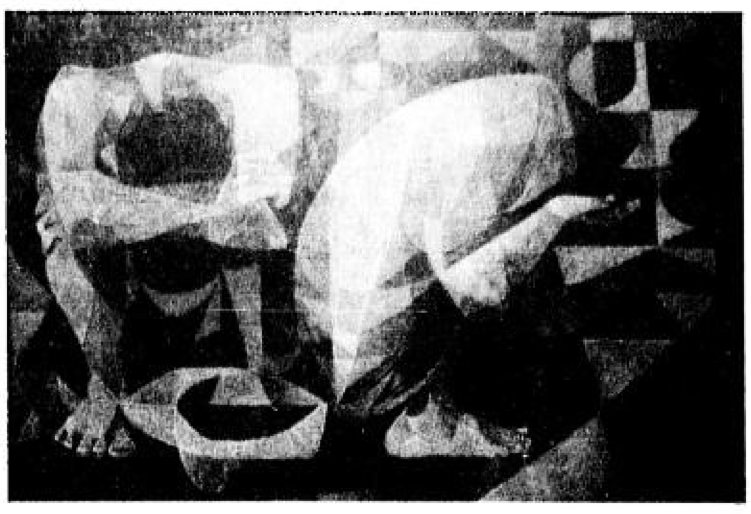

"MORIONES Festival," by Carlos V. Francisco


"MGA SABUNGERO II," by Diosdado Lorenzo


"BEGGARS," by Vicente Manansala

Priceless heritage in the corporate world

Their sheer number alone would make this collection deserving of a museum of its own. All our National Artists for the Visual Arts are represented here

Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Johnny Villena

THE ART collection of the United Coconut Planters Bank is one of the largest collections of works by major Filipino artists in the corporate world. This ranges from sculptures to paintings, from Hidalgo to Galicano, from academic art through the Modernists to the abstractionists.

Lorenzito Conopio, the UCPB art restorer and curator, estimates that the paintings, including those in UCPB branches in the provinces, could reach over 500. The sheer number alone would make this collection deserving of a museum of its own.

On May 12, three days before the bank turned 40, the collection was opened to the media with an exhibit of 75 of its artworks, to mark the anniversary. For three days it was open for private viewing of the press, the bank's clients and employees, respectively.

The exhibition was mounted at the UCPB corporate headquarters, in the conference room on the 15th floor of the building on Makati Avenue, Makati City. What were once scattered in numerous executive offices, boardrooms and hallways were gathered in one hall.

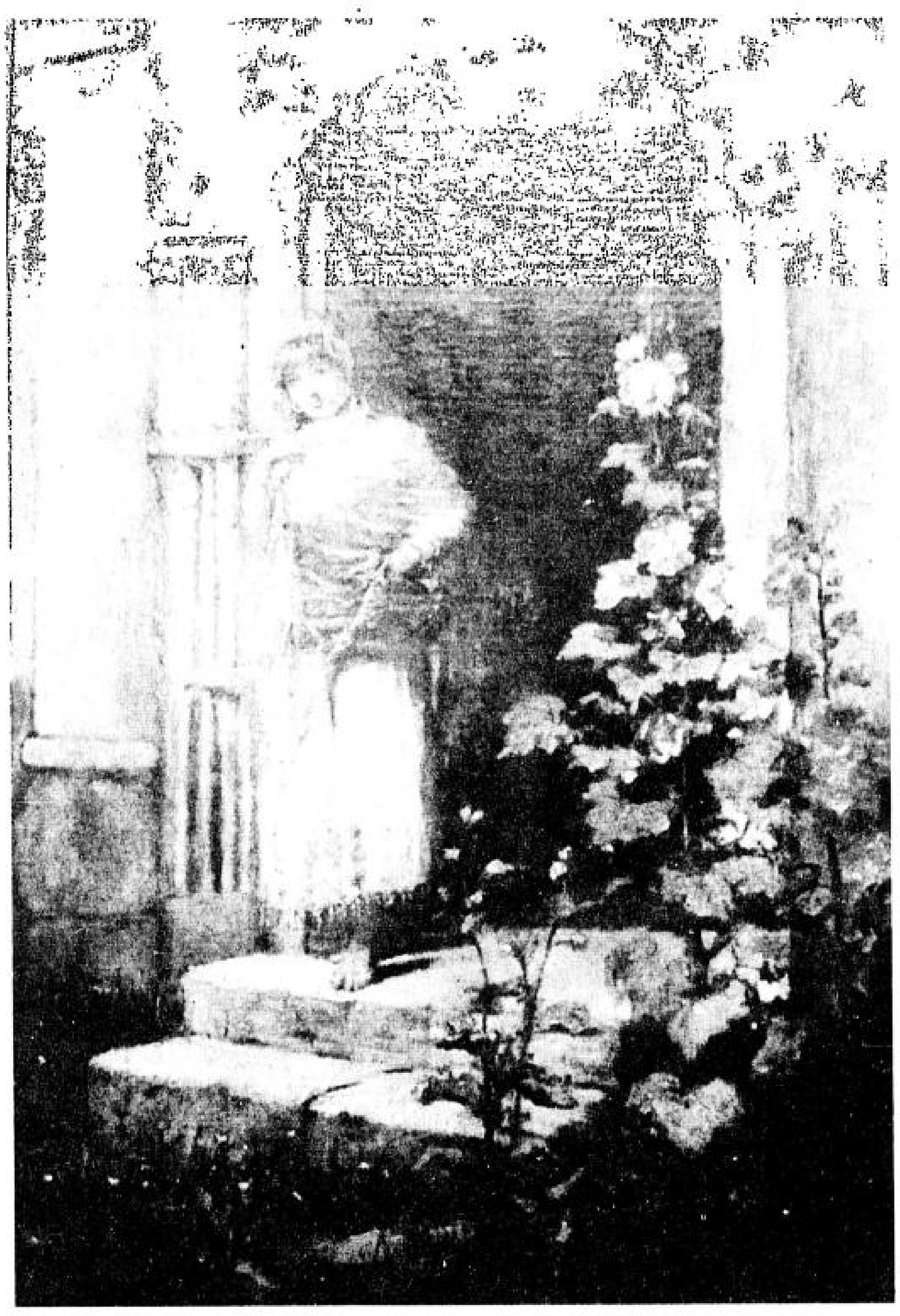
And such riches gathered there! It is an understatement to say that it simply overwhelms.

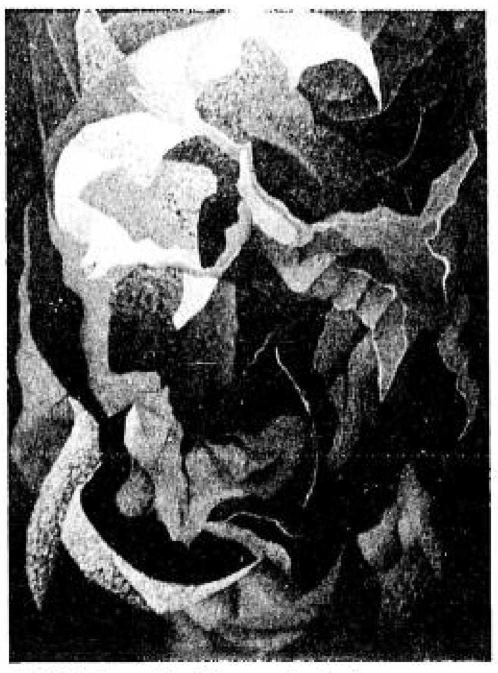
Conopio says UCPB chair Eduardo Cojuangco started the collection in the early 1980s. The bulk was acquired by Imelda Nakpil when she was head of the bank's general services, at a time when prices were relatively low. UCPB stopped buying art eight years ago.

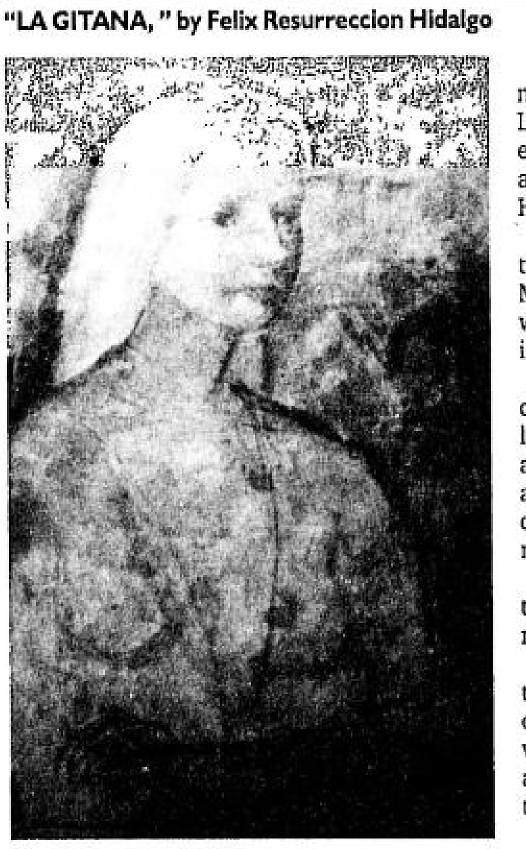
All our National Artists for the Visual Arts are represented here, including the latest, Ang Kiukok and José Joya. Why, there's even a piece by National Artist for Sculpture Napoleon Abueva.

Fernando Amorsolo alone has 12 pieces, including his bucolics, the historical seascape "The Traders," and his atypical sensual portrait "Copia Una de Zaurko."

Carlos "Botong" Francisco has six; Vicente Manansala, five; Cesar Legaspi and Ang Kiukok, four each; Hernando R. Ocampo and Joya, three each; Victorio Edades and Diosdado Lorenzo, two each; Arturo Luz and Gerry Elizalde Navarro, one each.


"LA GITANA," by Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo


"APRIL Song," by Hernando R. Ocampo


"A LADY," by Victorio Edades

Astonishing variety

Here are two small pieces by Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, "La Gitana" and "San Pedrillo River," minor works but no less lovely.

Here are Fernando Zobel's "Study for Saetas" and two other diaphanous abstractions, like film negative exposure.

The range is astonishing, including Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, Solomon Saprid, Nena Saguil, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Virginia Ty Navarro, Macario Vitalis, Juan Arellano, Mauro Malang Santos, Romulo Olazo, Ricarte Puruganan, José Blanco, Romulo Galicano, Cenon Rivera, Romeo Tabuena.

These pieces are mounted in a hall dominated by murals: Manansala's "Paraphrase of Luna's Blood Compact," a gigantic transparent-cubism version of the "Pacto de Sangre"; and Botong Francisco's monochromatic "Tuba Harvest" and "Marital Bliss."

At the entrance are Francisco's uncharacteristically colorful "Moriones Festival" and Manansala's famous "Birds in Flight." These would have overshadowed the smaller pieces if they weren't glittering jewels themselves.

Most of the paintings have been placed close together on folding wooden panels lined on the aisle, obviously to accommodate as many as possible. But for sheer number and variety, the riot of colors and complexity of forms, it is hard to view them with equanimity. They deserve walls of their own.

Not included in the exhibit, of course, are the building's murals that are impossible to remove.

On the ground floor, extending from corner to corner of one hall, is Manansala's "History of the Coconut Industry," depicting men and women planting the seedlings, harvesting and splitting open the coconuts, and drying the copra.

Dated 1979, it is rendered in oil in the artist's peculiar cubism, dominated by green with yellow, salmon, violet, orange, gold, blue and pink giving the overall effect of pastel. The mural is composed of repeat forms, with the round of the coconuts echoed by the faces, heads and hats, and the parallel lines of the fronds repeated in the thatching.

On the 11th floor, in a foyer, is an unfinished Francisco mural of a half-naked woman with a child, done in oil in his signature brownish monochrome. The master had been working at it a few months before he died. It depicts the birth of a hero, and is titled "Namongan at Lam-ang."

Dangers and priority

"A painting is like a baby," says Conopio. "It's like love. You nurture it. You have to regularly change its frame and matting, because that's where it starts to deteriorate. The gum arabic invites borers, the matting glue—*kaya lumilipat sa* canvas. I start working at the back of the painting, very seldom *sa harap*."

Conopio studied art authentication and restoration in Rome, specifically on painting and porcelain. He has been with UCPB since 1981, and also with some private collectors, including the Central Bank.

He says he has not done any major restoration for the UCPB collection so far, but just does annual checking for chips and dents, and cleaning. If ever, he does only minimal restoration especially on vintage pieces.

"I want people to see their original color and texture," he says. "First, I study the pigmentary composition. *Titingnan ko ang* color tones under the sun."

He estimates that oil on canvas starts to deteriorate after seven years at most. "It first appears as *mantsa*, blackish."

But some artists use house paint for tinting. As this does not permeate the canvas, the color easily fades. "Three months at most, then the color changes."

Watercolor on paper, he estimates, starts to deteriorate after five years.

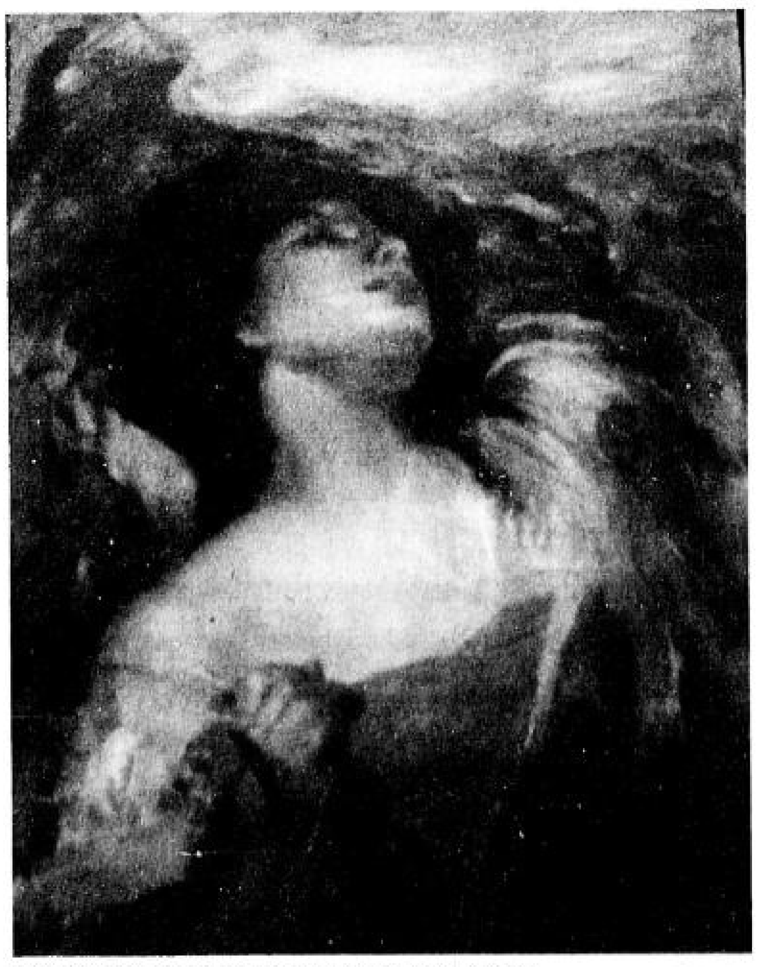
That's not the only danger to this priceless collection, however. Being housed in a high-rise building is another.

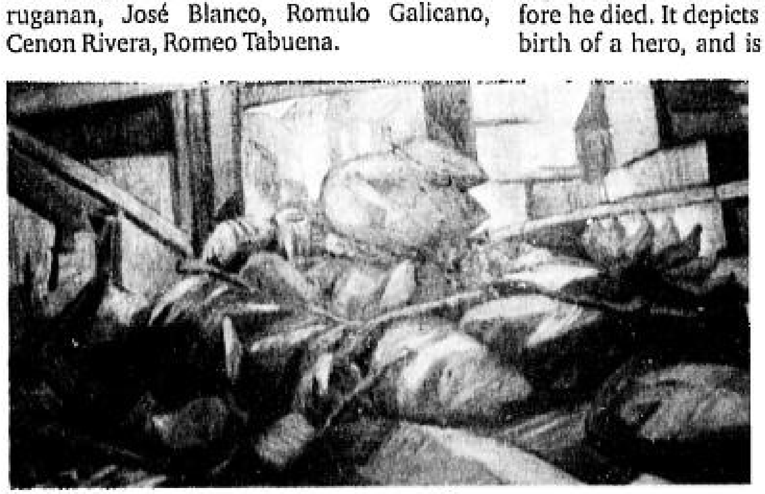
Conopio relates that in the 1980s the artworks had tags at the back instructing what to do in case of fire. "First priority should be these paintings."

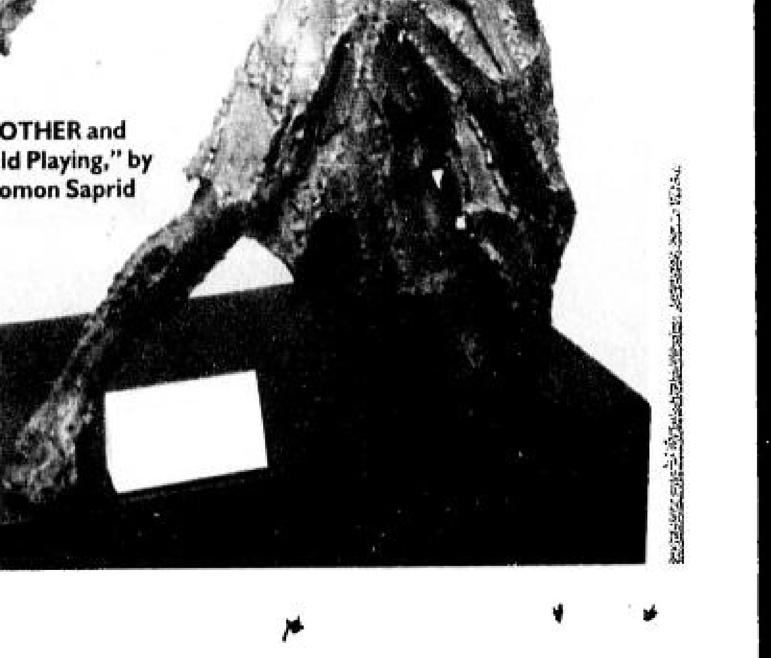
Clearly they need to have a place of their own, like the Central Bank Collection. Since UCPB is planning an annual exhibit, it can't just hold it in the same building as the bank, for security reasons.

But if it will, anyway, it should be on a lower floor, for accessibility to the public and easy rescue in case of fire. And security must be firmed up.

Why, the building housing these artworks itself could be a monumental work of art, designed as it was by National Artist for Architecture Leandro Locsin.


"COPIA Una de Zaurko," by Fernando Amorsolo


"KITCHEN Still Life," by Nena Saguil


"MOTHER and Child Playing," by Solomon Saprid

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Eden Cheese
Reg. P26.70
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July 1-15

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Slims
Lemonade, Tutti Frutti, Apple, Grape, Orange
Reg. P9.30
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Reg. P10.00
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Dumex
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Vanilla, Honey
Reg. P304.50
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Reg. P44.45
P42.25 160 gms

Century Tuna
Chunks in Water
Reg. P22.50
P22.10 184 gms
Chunks in Veg. Oil,
Reg. P23.00
P22.55 184 gms

KC
Cream Style Corn
Reg. P22.00
P21.50
432 gms
Whole Kernel Corn
Reg. P22.65
P21.50
432 gms

Selecta Ice Cream
3 in 1
Mango/Chocolate
Reg. P93.00
P88.00 900 ml
Take Two
Ube/Buko Salad
Reg. P99.00
P92.00 900 ml
July 1-13

Maya
Hot Cake Mix
Reg. P32.75
P31.15
500 gms
Complete Hot Cake Mix
Reg. P41.50
P39.45
500 gms

Century Tuna
Flakes in Water,
Reg. P20.00
P19.60 180 gms
Flakes in Veg. Oil, Hot and Spicy
Reg. P21.65
P21.25 180 gms

Bega
July 1-15
Cheese
Super Slices
Reg. P103.50
P99.50
250 gms
So Light Slices
Reg. P106.50
P101.50
250 gms

Heart Saver
Processed Cheese Slices
Reg. P90.50
P86.50 200 gms
July 1-15

Ground Beef
Regular
Reg. P149.00
P141.50 /kg

Tilapia
Jumbo
Reg. P85.00
P79.99 1 kg
June 30-July 6

Avbl. in Makati, Rockwell, Shangri-La Plaza, Cubao, Katipunan, Harrison Plaza, San Antonio,Forbes Park branches only.

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Dried Fish
Lapad
Reg. P34.00
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Dulong
Reg. P28.00
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Reg. P35.25
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June 30-July 6

Beef Short Ribs
Reg. P169.00
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Purefoods
Tender Juicy
Cheesedog
Reg. P168.50
P160.50 1 kg
July 1-13

From June 30-July 6 [illegible]

Eggplant
Regular
Reg. P59.00
P49.99 1 kg

Cucumber
Reg. P76.50
P49.99 1 kg

Ground Pork
Reg. P119.99
P115.50 /kg.

Purefoods July 1-13
Cheese Hotdog
Regular
Reg. P105.20
P100.50
500 gms
Jumbo
Reg. P102.50
P97.50
450 gms

Mango
Green
Reg. P31.50
P29.99 1 kg

Grapes
Red Globe
Reg. P140.00
P109.99 1 kg

Pork Adobo Cubes
Reg. P149.99
P142.50 /kg

CDO
Hamburger Patties
Regular
Reg. P33.00
P30.00 450 gms
July 1-6

Joy Ultra Dishwashing Liquid
Antibacterial,
Reg. P48.50
P46.10 250 ml
Green Apple,Red Rose, Lemon,Kalamansi
Reg. P44.75
P42.50 250 ml

Beef Neck
Reg. P139.50
P132.50 /kg

CDO
Premium Hotdog
Regular
Reg. P55.00
P51.00 490 gms
July 7-13

Ariel
Powder Detergent Soap
Reg. P126.75
P120.40 800 gms.

Downy
Fabric Softener
Sunrise Fresh, Ocean Fresh, Cool Cologne Fresh
Reg. P41.50
P39.45 250 ml

Makati 898-9275 | Cubao 911-2530 | Shangri-La Plaza 633-4423 | Harrison Plaza 521-8330 | Rockwell 898-1270 | Ali Mall 912-6125 | Farmers Plaza 911-1691 | San Antonio, Forbes Park 817-9327 | Alabang 807-1996 | Fairview 430-8095
Marikina 941-0979 | Star Mall 722-2714 | Sta. Rosa, Laguna (049) 541-1615 | Taytay 665-2110 | Libertad 834-2788 to 90 | Katipunan 928-3119 | Mercedes, Pasig 747-9272 | Boni 532-5881 | EDSA-Taft 833-6560 | Zabarte 961-4600

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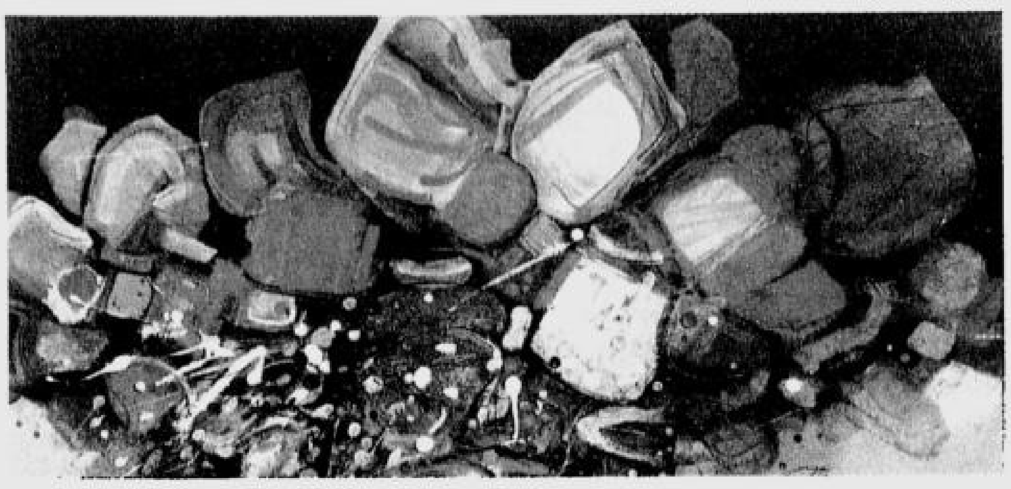

"RIVER Parade"

National Artist's . . .

From page D1

mentor throughout his lifetime many of the country's top artists. It earned him the title of "University Professor," the highest rank given by the UP faculty.

He also sought to teach ordinary Filipinos to understand and recognize great art, mounting exhibits in different parts of the country to help the masses develop an appreciation for the visual arts.

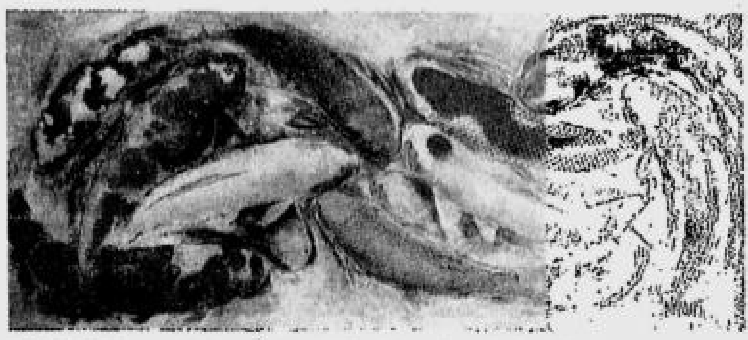
In fact, Baldovino said her brother often talked about how much he enjoyed his interactions with the masses who, despite their lack of exposure to the arts, asked intelligent and highly perceptive questions.

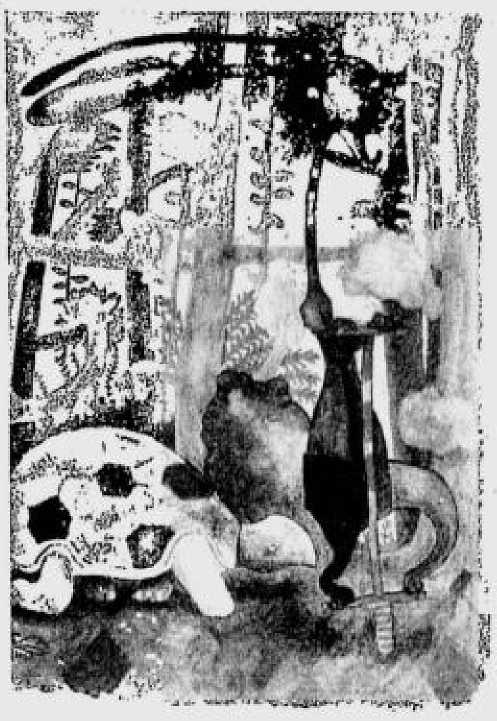
Pottery at Pintô, Moss at Crucible

VISUAL ARTS

PINTÔ Art Gallery presents an exhibition of clay pottery and sculpture until Aug. 15. "Putik!" features the works of Lanelle Abueva, Roberto Acosta, Jecky Alano, Ugu Bigyan, Charito Bitanga, Alan Cabalfin, Pete Cortes, Aba Dalena, Jaime de Guzman, Fidel Go, Julie Lluch, Baidy Mendoza, Hadrian Mendoza, Shozo Michikawa, Jon Pettyjohn, Tessy Pettyjohn, Neifa Querubin-Tompkins, Lia Tayag and Jeff van der Broek. Call 697-1015.

JASON Moss' "Aesop According to Jason Moss," an exhibit of his original artworks from six children's books, will open tomorrow at the Crucible Gallery in SM Megamall. Six of Aesop's fables—"The Ant and the Grasshopper," "The Turtle and the Hare," "The Wolf and the Crow," "The Crane and the Peacock," "The Lion and the Mouse," and "The Swallow and the Eagle"—are published by Lampara Books and available in bookstores. Call 635-6061.


"INFINITY Pond" by Ramon Diaz


"OUTRUN" by Jason Moss

THE DRAWING Room showcases Tito Roy's studies of women in "Girls Night Out." The exhibit is ongoing until July 16 at 1007 Metrostar Bldg., Metropolitan Ave., Makati.

KULAY Diwa Art Galleria presents "Taumariu's Daughter" by Ian Victoriano. Inspired by the Tinggian myth of the Great Flood, the exhibition is ongoing until July 6 at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque.

SUPPLY Oilfield Services, Inc. holds a photo exhibit titled "Filipina—A Tribute to the Philippine Woman" until July 9 at Le Soufflé Restaurant at The Fort. It displays the 120 photos of winners in Filipina Photo Contest.

GALLERIA Duemila presents Ramon Diaz's "Colored Waters" until July 13 at 4/L, Bldg. A of SM Megamall. The exhibit is a tribute to the artist's fascination with the sea.

STARBUCKS and The Drawing Room feature Jason Oliveria, Christian Tomondong and Troy Ignacio in an ongoing show at Starbucks 6750. Proceeds will go to Cartwheel Foundation, which partners with individuals and organizations that believe education is the key to economic development.

THE DRAWING Room holds Jason Oliveria's third one-man show until July 16. The artist presents his latest works on paper.

THE SATURDAY Group will open the "Art and Food" exhibit on July 1, 11 a.m., at Galleria Botin in Libis, Quezon City. The art gallery is being launched as another venue for the art sessions of The Saturday Group.

AYALA Museum launches Artivity, a series of children's workshops. The 4-session workshops will be held every Saturday (July 5, 12, 19 and 26), 9 a.m.-12 noon, at Ayala Museum. Call 812-1191.

CLAY sculpture by Roberto Acosta at Pintô Gallery

Art classes on Katipunan Avenue

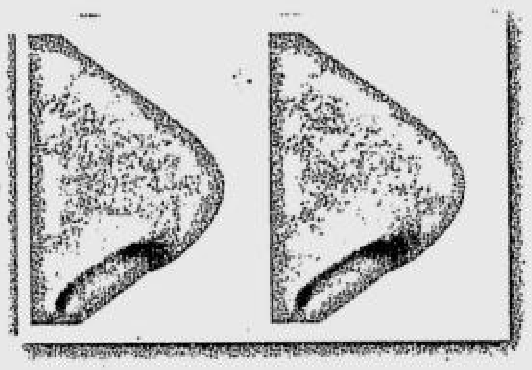
THE GALLERIES of Fine Arts along Katipunan Avenue in White Plains, Quezon City, is now accepting enrollees to an art workshop to be facilitated by instructor George Tagle.

Tagle, who has been teaching art lessons for the past 12 years, will cover the basics of drawing, sketching and painting using different media: pencil, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, oil and acrylic.

Sessions will be held Mondays to Saturdays, mornings and afternoons, and are open to all ages. For working people, evening art sessions are scheduled on weekdays from 6 to 9 pm.

Additional sessions await the first 50 enrollees.

Call 911-5615 and 439-1689 or visit #82 Katipunan Avenue, White Plains, Quezon City.

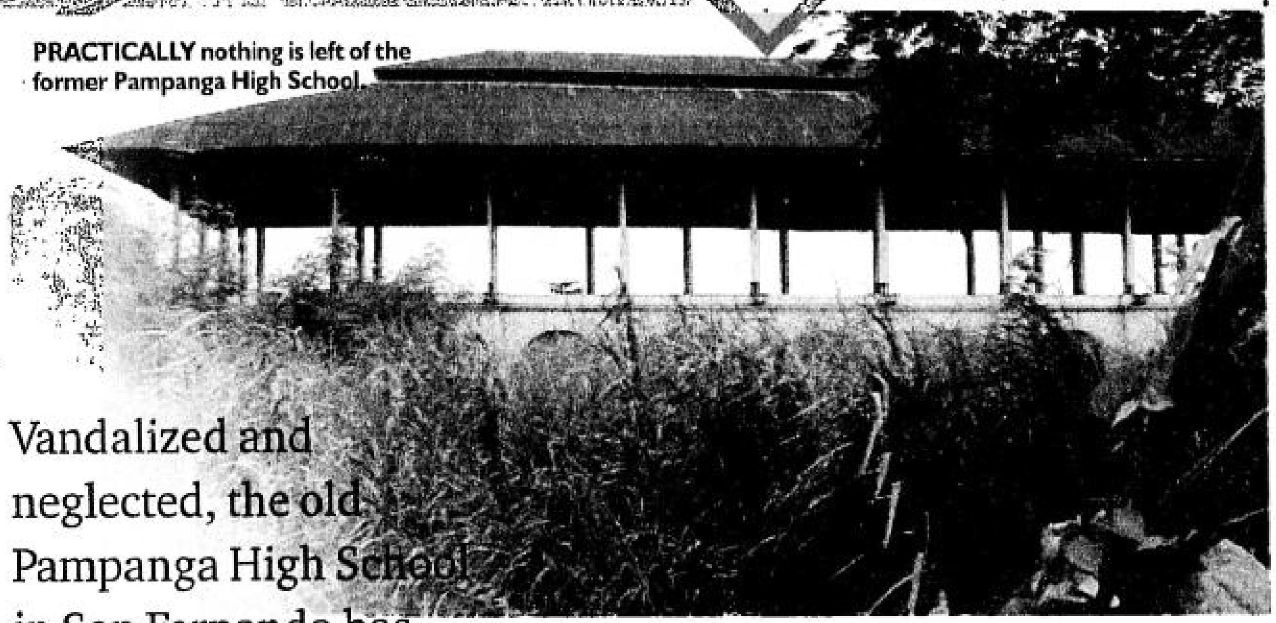

I-fast forward ang ginhawa sa sipon.

PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE HCl
CHLORPHENAMINE Maleate
PARACETAMOL
SALICYLAMIDE
ASCORBIC ACID
NEOZEP

Dahil may umaasa sa 'yo,
huwag magpaabala sa sipon. Huwag magtiis.
Unahan na ang sipon. I- Neozep agad.

Neozep

Pampanga rises from the lahar of buried heritage



PRACTICALLY nothing is left of the former Pampanga High School.

SPACED OUT

Augusto F Villalon

DRIVING through the center of San Fernando in Pampanga last week was depressing. The place was another of those generic, typical, nondescript Philippine cities.

All around us was the same urban chaos that the Filipino now takes for granted. It must have become a national karma, our turning the opposite way to avoid seeing the dismal conditions that we are forced to live in.

In San Fernando, absolutely no clue exists of its former grandeur; no hint is present of the special quality of life that its residents are supposed to enjoy.

But things aren't that bleak. San Fernando Mayor Reynaldo B. Aquino is carrying out a recovery program. He seeks to recapture the city's former glory as the capital and as the center of excellence of Pampanga.

The next project on the horizon of the program is the restoration of Pampanga High School. There is quite a history behind this project.

The imposing structure was the premier high school in Central Luzon. It was the alma mater of illustrious Kapampangans: President Diosdado Macapagal and six of his Cabinet members, Pampanga Gov. Jose Lingad, Supreme Court Justice Roberto Regala, award-winning journalist and historian Renato Tayag, Secretary Dante Canlas, Aber Canlas, Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, writer Krip Yuson.

PAMPANGA/E3

> Vandalized and neglected, the old Pampanga High School in San Fernando has become the focus of the province's heritage rescue program

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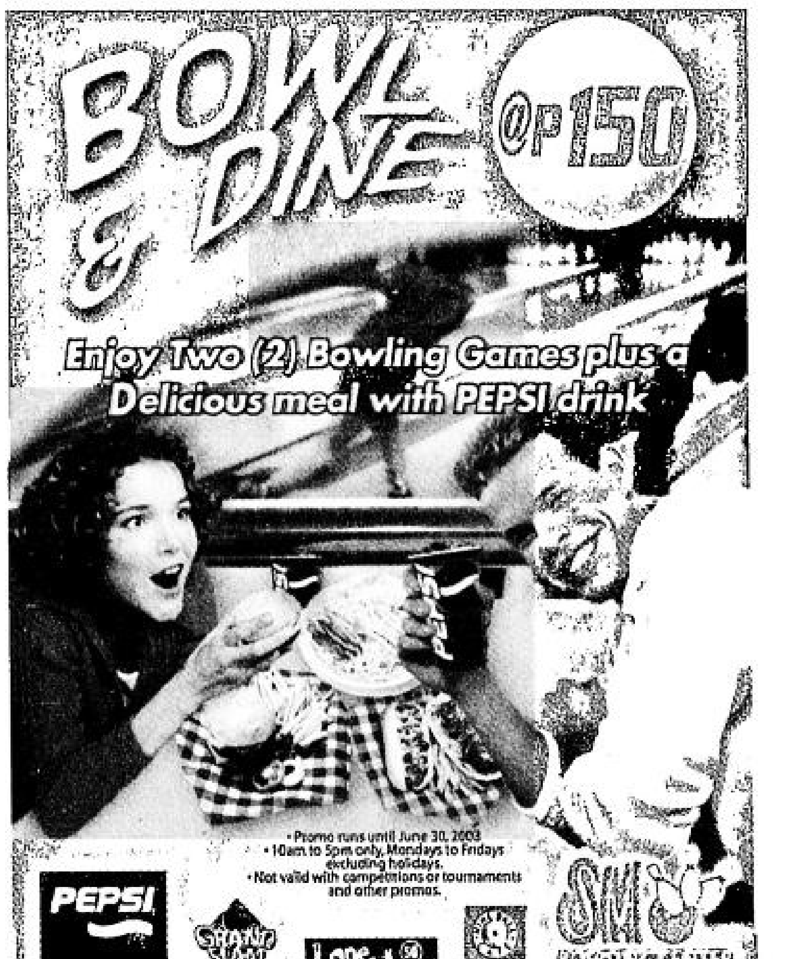
PAX the PALAWAN eXperience corporate



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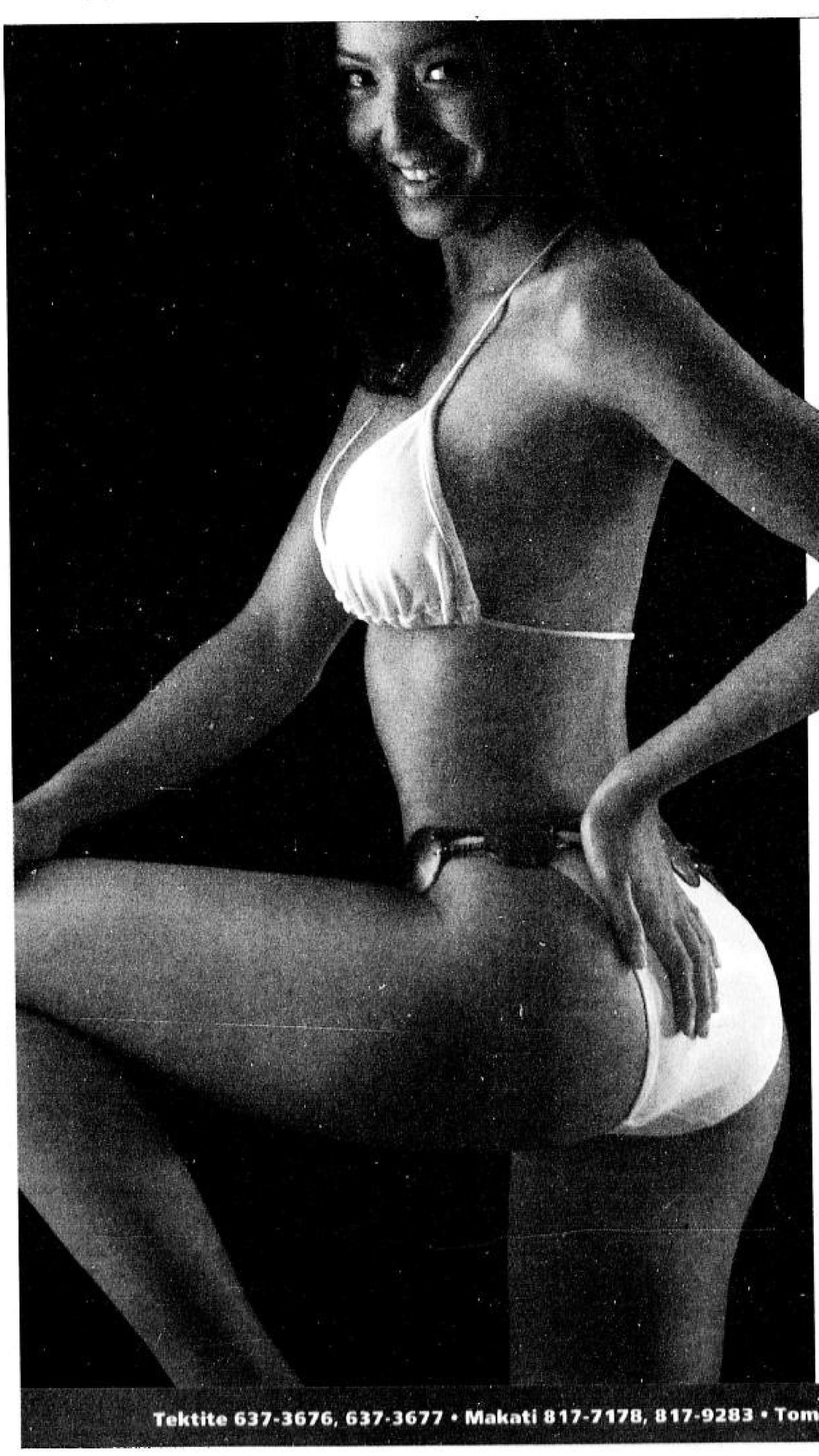

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HYDROGEL is the new generation filler that rounds and
lifts up your buttock area safely and permanently.
And since HYDROGEL is made up of a high percentage of
water, it feels more natural and is readily accepted by
the body. The gel is injected into the skin and you can
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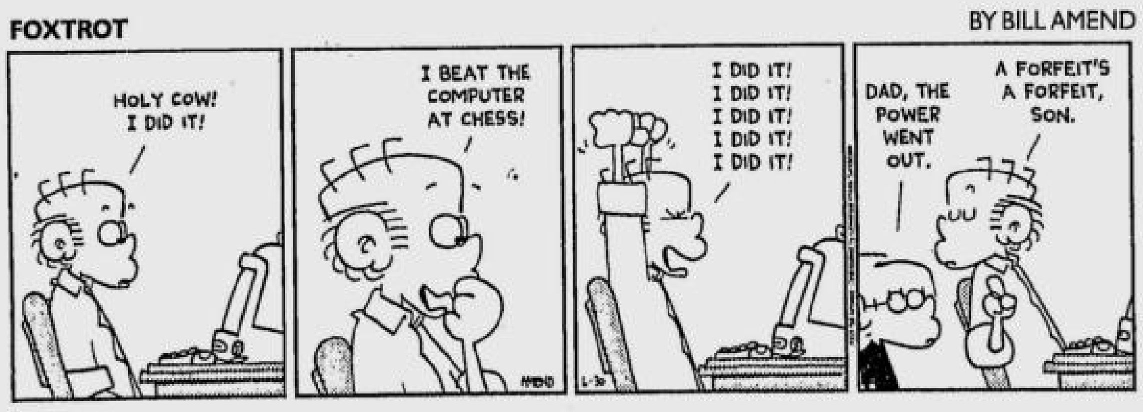
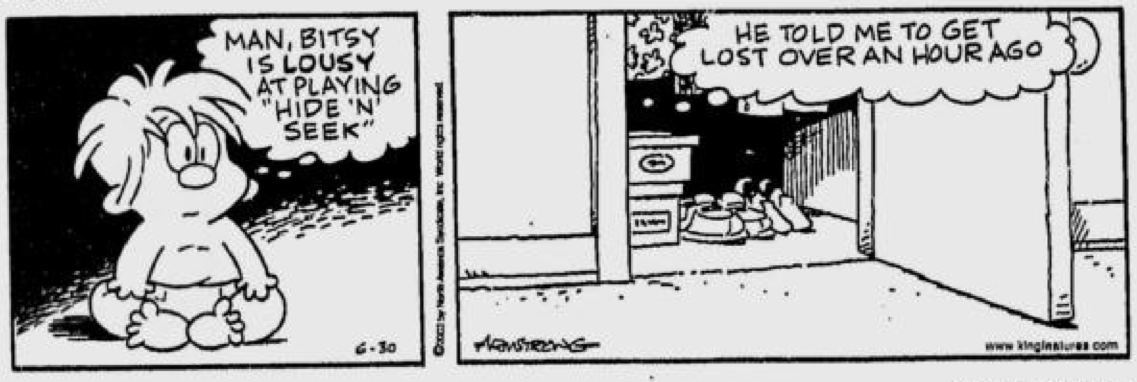
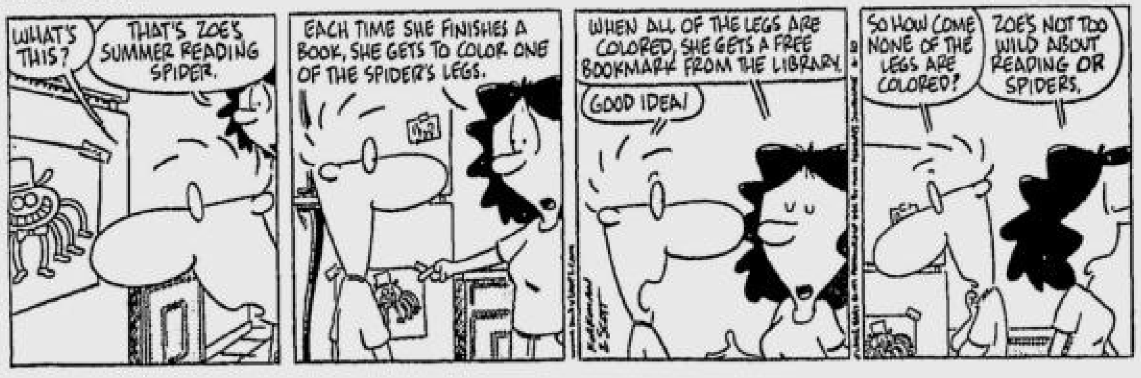
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


HOLY COW! I DID IT!
I BEAT THE COMPUTER AT CHESS!
I DID IT! I DID IT! I DID IT! I DID IT! I DID IT!
DAD, THE POWER WENT OUT.
A FORFEIT'S A FORFEIT, SON.
AMEND 6-30

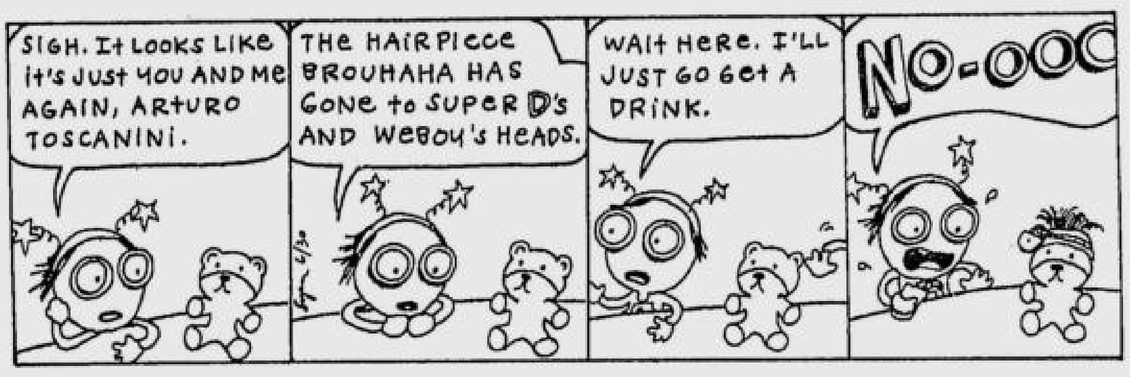
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MAN, BITSY IS LOUSY AT PLAYING "HIDE 'N' SEEK"
6-30
HE TOLD ME TO GET LOST OVER AN HOUR AGO
ARMSTRONG
www.kingfeatures.com

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S THIS?
THAT'S ZOE'S SUMMER READING SPIDER.
EACH TIME SHE FINISHES A BOOK, SHE GETS TO COLOR ONE OF THE SPIDER'S LEGS.
WHEN ALL OF THE LEGS ARE COLORED, SHE GETS A FREE BOOKMARK FROM THE LIBRARY.
GOOD IDEA!
SO HOW COME NONE OF THE LEGS ARE COLORED?
ZOE'S NOT TOO WILD ABOUT READING OR SPIDERS.

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SIGH. IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST YOU AND ME AGAIN, ARTURO TOSCANINI.
THE HAIRPIECE BROUHAHA HAS GONE TO SUPER D'S AND WEBOY'S HEADS.
WAIT HERE. I'LL JUST GO GET A DRINK.
NO-OOO

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You become technically proficient at whatever you choose. In part, you want to earn a good living in life. You know that excellence pays off. However, you often live in two worlds: one public, one private. You choose what you want to reveal. Significant changes take place this year, perhaps as important as those in 1994.
Birthdate of: Vincent D'Onofrio, actor; Lena Horne, singer; Mike Tyson, boxer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You are unusually diplomatic today. In fact, your skill with words right now is so strong, you could write poetry or marvelous letters to someone. People will definitely find you witty and entertaining.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have great moneymaking ideas today. Whatever you do will either boost your income or, conversely, drain it because you are shopping for beautiful items! Either way, you win.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Any day of the week, you are verbally swift and bright. But today, you are unstoppable! You can talk anyone into anything. Watch out, world!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel privately spiritual today and more sensitive to the suffering of others. You might want to do something to help those who are less fortunate than you are. (Good for you.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Artistic, creative people interest you today. In fact, conversations with friends about the arts or music trigger bright ideas within you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): With no extra effort on your part, you easily impress important people today. This is because your words flow smoothly, and your financial common sense is strong now. You can't lose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to do anything different from your daily routine. Shake it up a little. Your appreciation of beauty is heightened today. Visit bookstores, museums or art galleries, or take a walk in the park.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you attend to insurance matters, bills, taxes and working out details about shared property, you will make great progress today. You see relationships between pieces of information, ones you might have missed before.

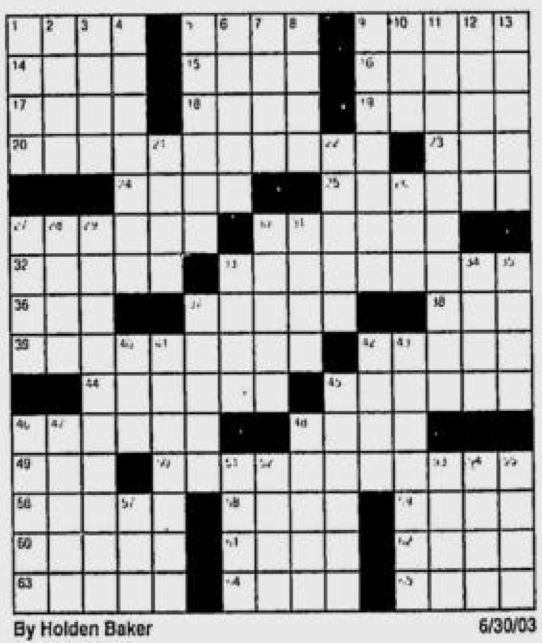
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a fabulous day to talk with partners and close friends. In fact, all your dealings with the general public are unusually successful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You find it easier to see the big picture at work today. You are certainly more receptive than usual to suggestions from co-workers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your interest in art, music or poetry is strongly stimulated today. Similarly, you can trust your ideas about financial speculation.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It is easy to have feelings of love and affection for family members today. You can discuss various aspects of your relationships and improve them through mutual understanding. By all means, talk about your feelings.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA
6/30/03

ACROSS
1 Rush-job acronym
5 Second word of "The Raven"
9 1970 comedy, "Where's __?"
14 Foot part
15 Despotic emperor
16 Decorate
17 Russian legislature
18 Tex-Mex choice
19 Olivaceous flycatcher
20 Powerful herbicide used in Vietnam
23 Bear's home
24 Turnpike payment
25 "Hold Your Head Up" group
27 Oval nut
30 Shooting star
32 Wynonna's mom
33 Fairly good
36 A couple
37 Rolls up
38 Meadow
39 Points to
42 Printing press pioneer Andreas
44 Daedalus' son
45 Saloon
46 Cruise ships
48 Salad fish?
49 Bring to a halt
50 Lifesaver flavor
56 O'Day or Hill
58 Cold War letters
59 "__ la Douce"
60 Utah lilies
61 Cob or drake
62 __ d'etat
63 Something to plight?
64 Unruly kid
65 Latin being

DOWN
1 Verdi opera
2 Comfy-cozy
3 Peak of perfection
4 Apparition
5 Incalculable
6 Wisdom unit?
7 Puget Sound whale
8 High time?
9 Alternative to a painter, perhaps
10 Lyric poem
11 Sky color, often
12 Clean one's feathers
13 In regard to
21 "Beloved" author Morrison
22 Microsoft's leader
26 Region on the SW coast of India
27 One opposed
28 Mowed grass
29 Ellington standard
30 __ the pity
31 Pipe turns
33 Ballet skirt
34 Sly glance
35 Deserve
37 Tongue of Iran
40 Bar rocks
41 1976 Richard Pryor movie
42 Gunshot sound
43 Excessive desire for wealth
45 Corner tower
46 Smallest
47 At the center
48 Inventor Nikola
51 Without feeling
52 Russian ruler
53 Greek Cupid
54 Australian birds
55 Scruff
57 Small child

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	E	M	U	R	E	■	E	V	E	N	O	D	D	S
E	L	O	P	E	R	■	S	E	T	A	P	A	R	T
F	E	L	I	N	E	■	C	R	E	P	E	R	I	E
I	C	E	■	O	C	C	A	B	■	S	N	E	V	A
N	T	H	■	S	T	O	P	A	T	■	S	T	E	M
I	R	I	S	■	■	G	E	T	U	P	■	O	N	S
T	I	L	T	E	D	■	D	I	X	I	E	■	■	■
E	C	L	A	I	R	S	■	M	E	N	A	C	E	D
■	■	■	T	R	I	E	D	■	S	E	S	A	M	E
D	C	C	■	F	L	L	I	E	■	■	F	R	O	S
E	L	L	E	■	L	L	A	M	A	S	■	E	T	C
C	A	I	R	O	■	S	P	U	R	N	■	F	I	E
O	V	E	R	S	H	O	E	■	M	A	T	R	O	N
D	I	N	O	S	A	U	R	■	O	R	I	E	N	T
E	N	T	R	A	N	T	S	■	R	E	C	E	S	S

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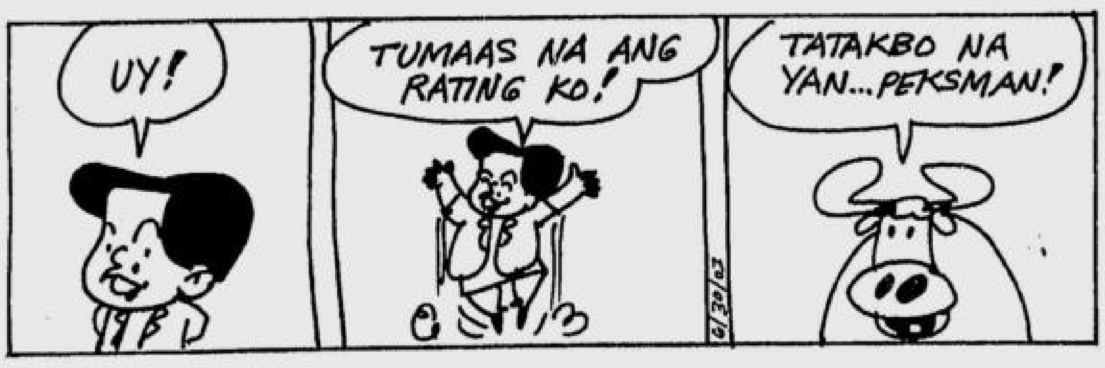
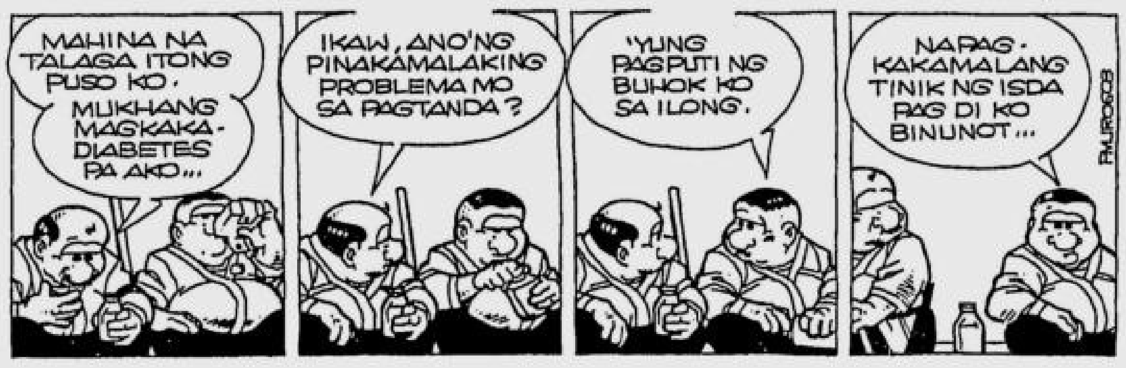
6/30/03

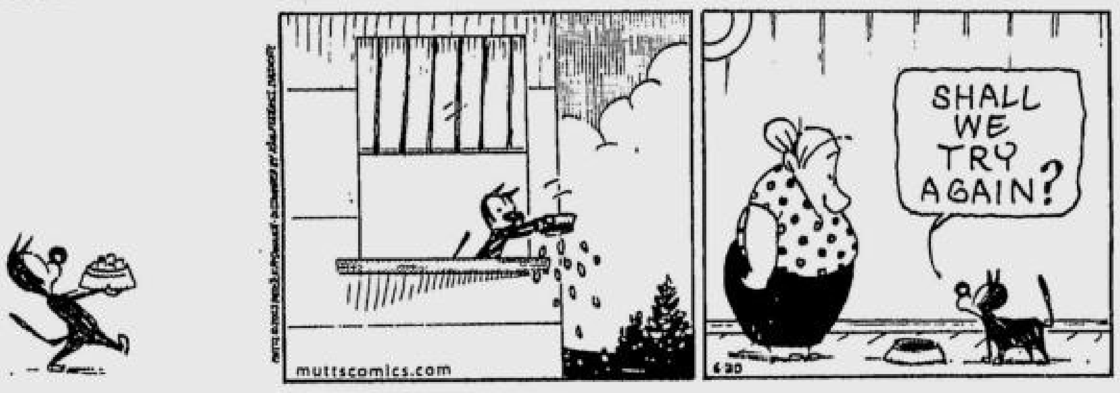
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


UY!
TUMAAS NA ANG RATING KO!
6/30/03
TATAKBO NA YAN... PEKSMAN!

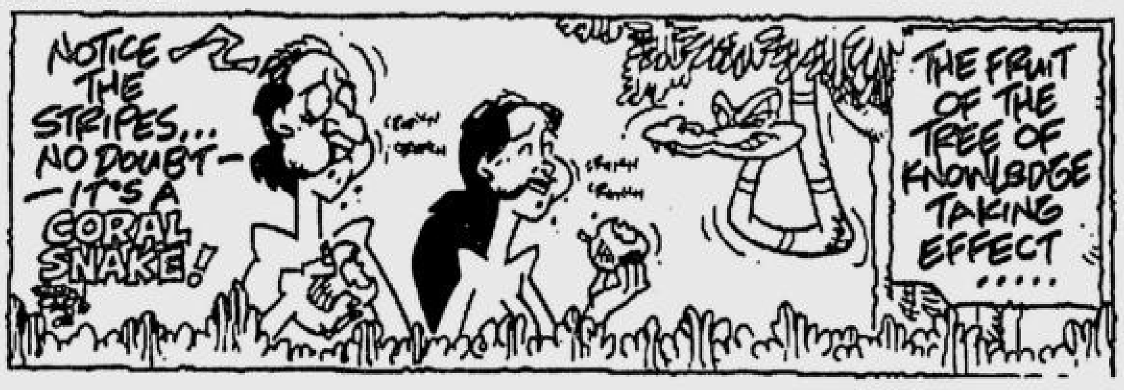
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAHINA NA TALAGA ITONG PUSO KO.
MUKHANG MAGKAKA-DIABETES PA AKO...
IKAW, ANO'NG PINAKAMALAKING PROBLEMA MO SA PAGTANDA?
'YUNG PAGPUTI NG BUHOK KO SA ILONG.
NAPAG-KAKAMALANG TINIK NG ISDA PAG DI KO BINUNOT...
PMJR0603

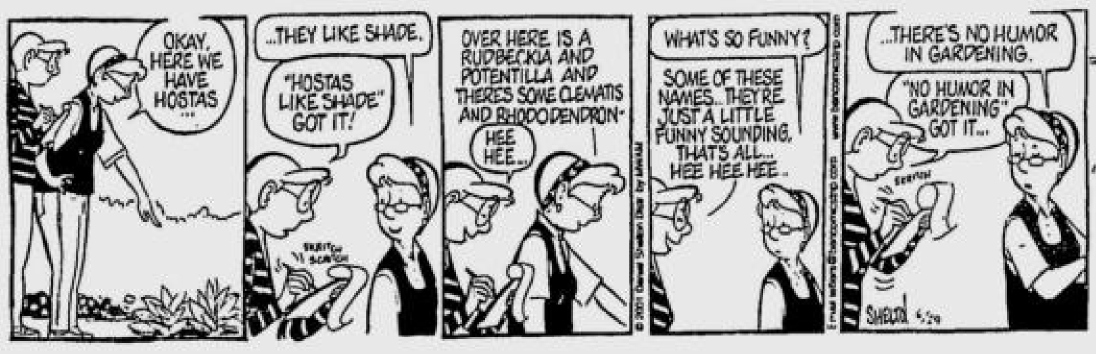
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
SHALL WE TRY AGAIN?
6-30

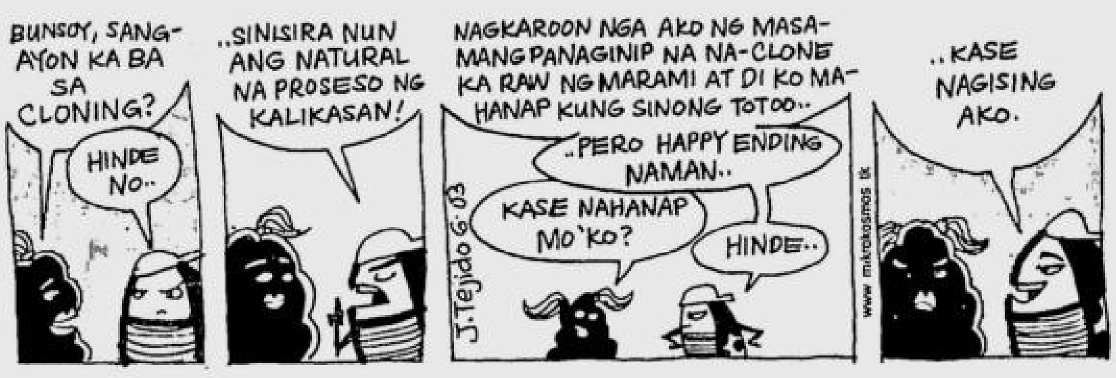
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NOTICE THE STRIPES... NO DOUBT—IT'S A CORAL SNAKE!
THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE TAKING EFFECT.....

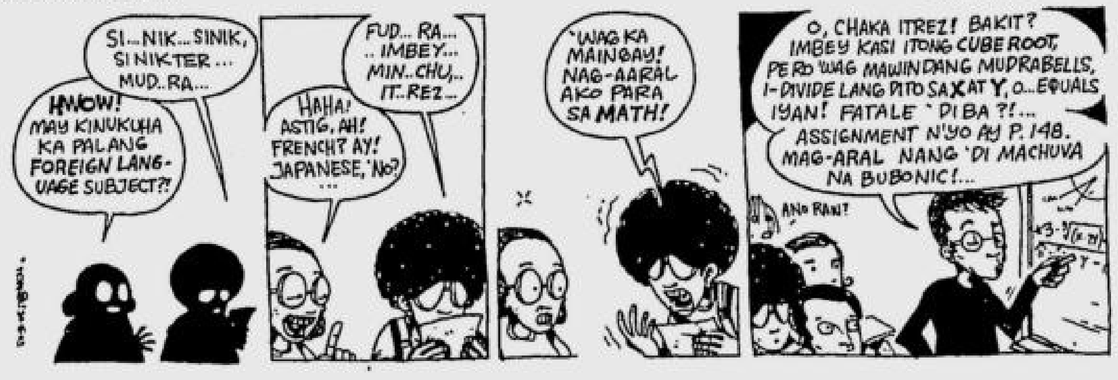
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


OKAY, HERE WE HAVE HOSTAS...
...THEY LIKE SHADE.
"HOSTAS LIKE SHADE" GOT IT!
SCRITCH SCRATCH
OVER HERE IS A RUDBECKIA AND POTENTILLA AND THERE'S SOME CLEMATIS AND RHODODENDRON-
HEE HEE...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
SOME OF THESE NAMES... THEY'RE JUST A LITTLE FUNNY SOUNDING, THAT'S ALL... HEE HEE HEE...
...THERE'S NO HUMOR IN GARDENING.
"NO HUMOR IN GARDENING" GOT IT...
SHELTON

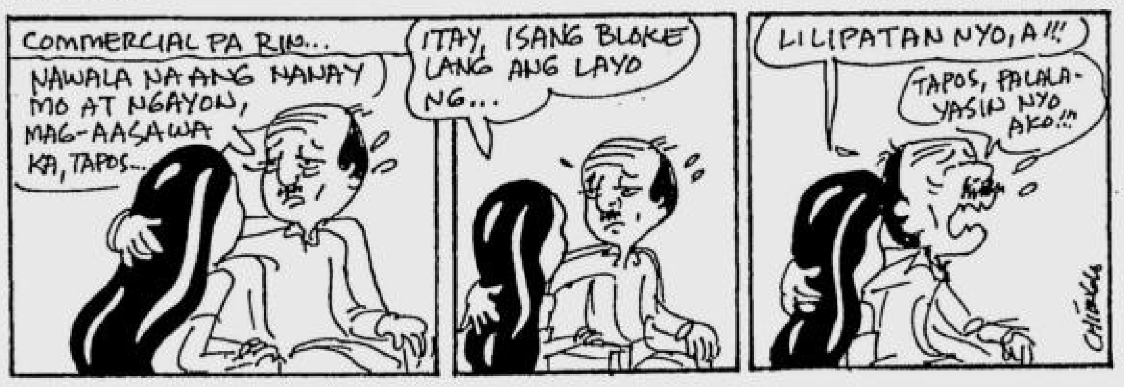
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, SANG-AYON KA BA SA CLONING?
HINDE NO..
..SINISIRA NUN ANG NATURAL NA PROSESO NG KALIKASAN!
NAGKAROON NGA AKO NG MASAMANG PANAGINIP NA NA-CLONE KA RAW NG MARAMI AT DI KO MAHANAP KUNG SINONG TOTOO..
..PERO HAPPY ENDING NAMAN..
KASE NAHANAP MO'KO?
HINDE..
J.Tejido 6.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..KASE NAGISING AKO.

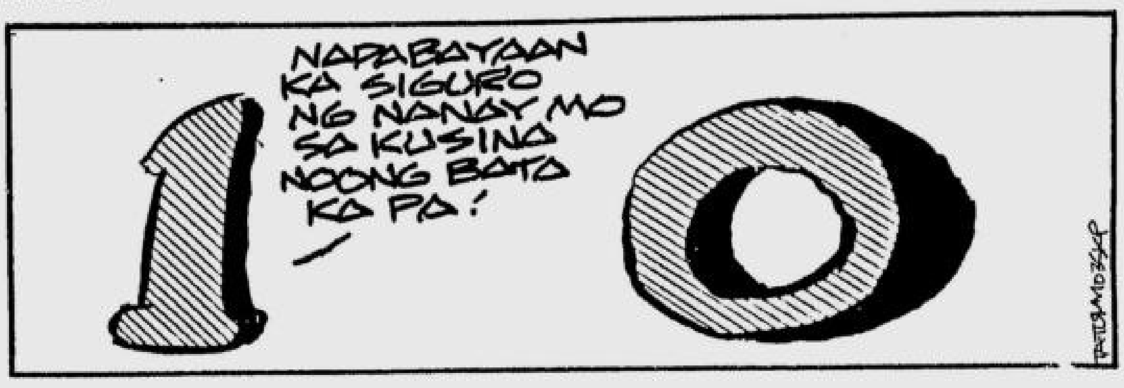
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOW! MAY KINUKUHA KA PALANG FOREIGN LANGUAGE SUBJECT?!
SI...NIK...SINIK, SINIKTER... MUD..RA...
HAHA! ASTIG, AH! FRENCH? AY! JAPANESE, 'NO?
FUD... RA... ..IMBEY... MIN..CHU,.. IT..REZ...
'WAG KA MAINGAY! NAG-AARAL AKO PARA SA MATH!
O, CHAKA ITREZ! BAKIT? IMBEY KASI ITONG CUBE ROOT, PERO 'WAG MAWINDANG MUDRABELLS, I-DIVIDE LANG DITO SA X AT Y, O...EQUALS IYAN! FATALE 'DI BA?!...
ASSIGNMENT N'YO AY P. 148. MAG-ARAL NANG 'DI MACHUVA NA BUBONIC!...
ANO RAW?

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


COMMERCIAL PA RIN...
NAWALA NA ANG NANAY MO AT NGAYON, MAG-AASAWA KA, TAPOS...
ITAY, ISANG BLOKE LANG ANG LAYO NG...
LILIPATAN NYO, A!!!
TAPOS, PALALAYASIN NYO AKO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAPABAYAAN KA SIGURO NG NANAY MO SA KUSINA NOONG BATA KA PA!

Pampanga rises from the lahar of buried heritage

From page E1

There is quite a history behind the building. Built in 1912 in the former Philippine Constabulary compound, it was the first and only public high school in the province at that time. The building became the 2nd Station Hospital for a while, then reverted to being a school.

As recently as 1980, the building housed the University of the Philippines Extension Program in San Fernando.

The building itself was constructed after the Commonwealth assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon of Nueva Ecija sponsored a bill allotting funds for the construction of public schools all over the country. The schoolhouses were called Gabaldon Schoolhouses and are now part of the architectural heritage of our country.

The building is architecturally significant. The design follows one of the basic Gabaldon-type designs.

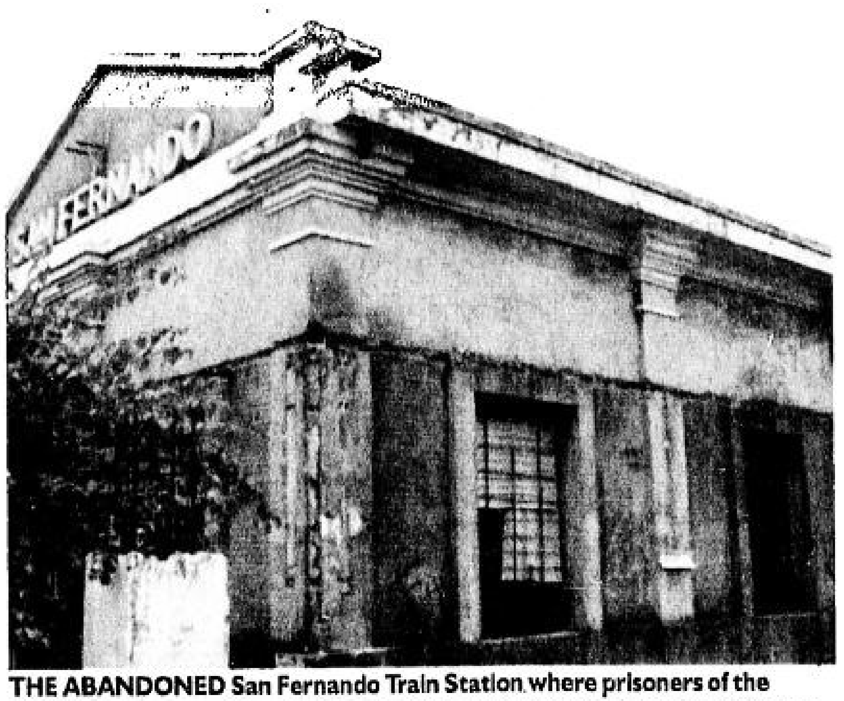
It is built on the *bahay-na-bato* template. Instead of an adobe-covered ground floor, the floor is concrete-walled. Its upper floor is built completely of wood with massive swing-out *capiz* windows on wooden frames.

To cool the massive building from tropical heat, its galvanized iron roof and interior ceilings are high, and its windows large.

Last year the Foundation for Lingap Kapampangan signed an agreement with the provincial government to develop the former high school into the Kapampangan Cultural Center.

Vandalized

Between the time the agreement was signed and today, the structure was vandalized. All of the wooden flooring, wall panels, and most of the massive structural members were dismantled. Outraged members of the foundation demanded an investigation.



THE ABANDONED San Fernando Train Station where prisoners of the Death March were shipped. It is one of the many decaying structures in San Fernando waiting to be reused.

When the vandalism issue was at its height, the Heritage Conservation Society participated in the campaign to restore the building. Its former board member, now Presidential Assistant for Culture Manuel Quezon III, brought the matter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who ordered the restoration of the building and its reopening as the Pampanga branch of the National Museum.

What the National Museum envisions is that the restoration project follow international standards and serve as a model for the country.

Restoration studies are now beginning. Due to the nature of the project, planning is to be done by qualified architects who specialize in restoration.

The studies aim to return not only the architectural features of the building, but, more important, to respect the historicity of the structure. It means that the architectural significance of the building will be restored.

Its garden setting will also be restored. On the 6,000-sq-m property, a garden resembling the original one will be re-planted, becoming an outdoor museum where Kapampangans can once more see and touch old trees that are no longer planted today.

Following international conservation standards set by the Venice Charter, no new structures should be built on the grounds. New structures diminish the heritage value of the old structure, and cover the view of the structure from its surroundings.

To maintain the historicity of the building and to honor its illustrious lineage, although it becomes the Kapampangan Cultural Center, it should retain its original name, Pampanga High School. It assures that future generations will continue to be aware of the educational contribution that the school has made to the province and to the country.

The project seeks to keep the San Fernando story alive before what little is left of the town sinks into the lahar that covers most of the city. It keeps the hope that heritage will be rediscovered and conserved for the future in San Fernando.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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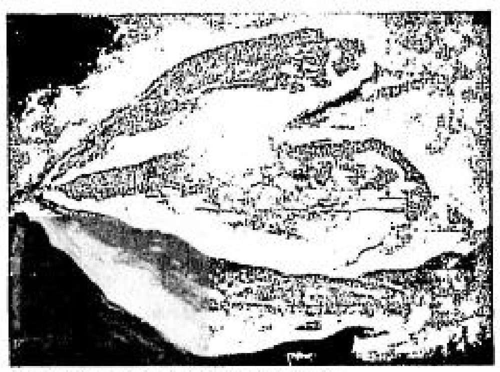
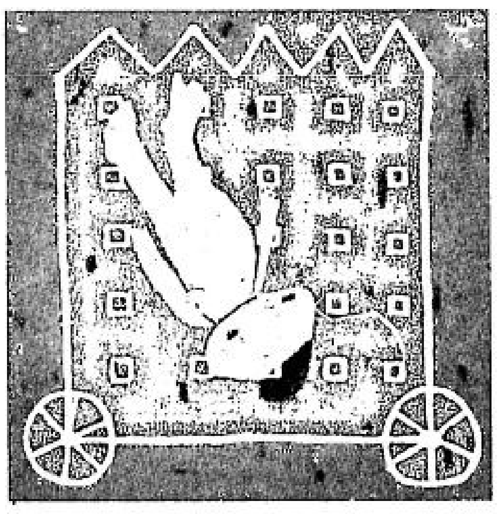


"UNTITLED" by Gino Tioseco



"SEDUCED by Images" by J.G. Naval

'Communal Extremes' at Astra

WHAT would you get when you put together three exceptional artists of different temperaments, styles, and backgrounds in one show? Good art.

"Communal Extremes" exactly brings that about. It is a show of Jose Guillermo Naval, Gino Tioseco and Carlo Saavedra at the Galerie Astra (Art Pavilion of the LRI Business Plaza, Bel Air, Makati) starting July 4.

Naval tackles the problem of identity. "I believe that the most important thing is not the shock value that a work creates but that it should be visually powerful."

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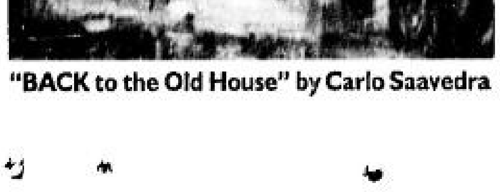

"BACK to the Old House" by Carlo Saavedra

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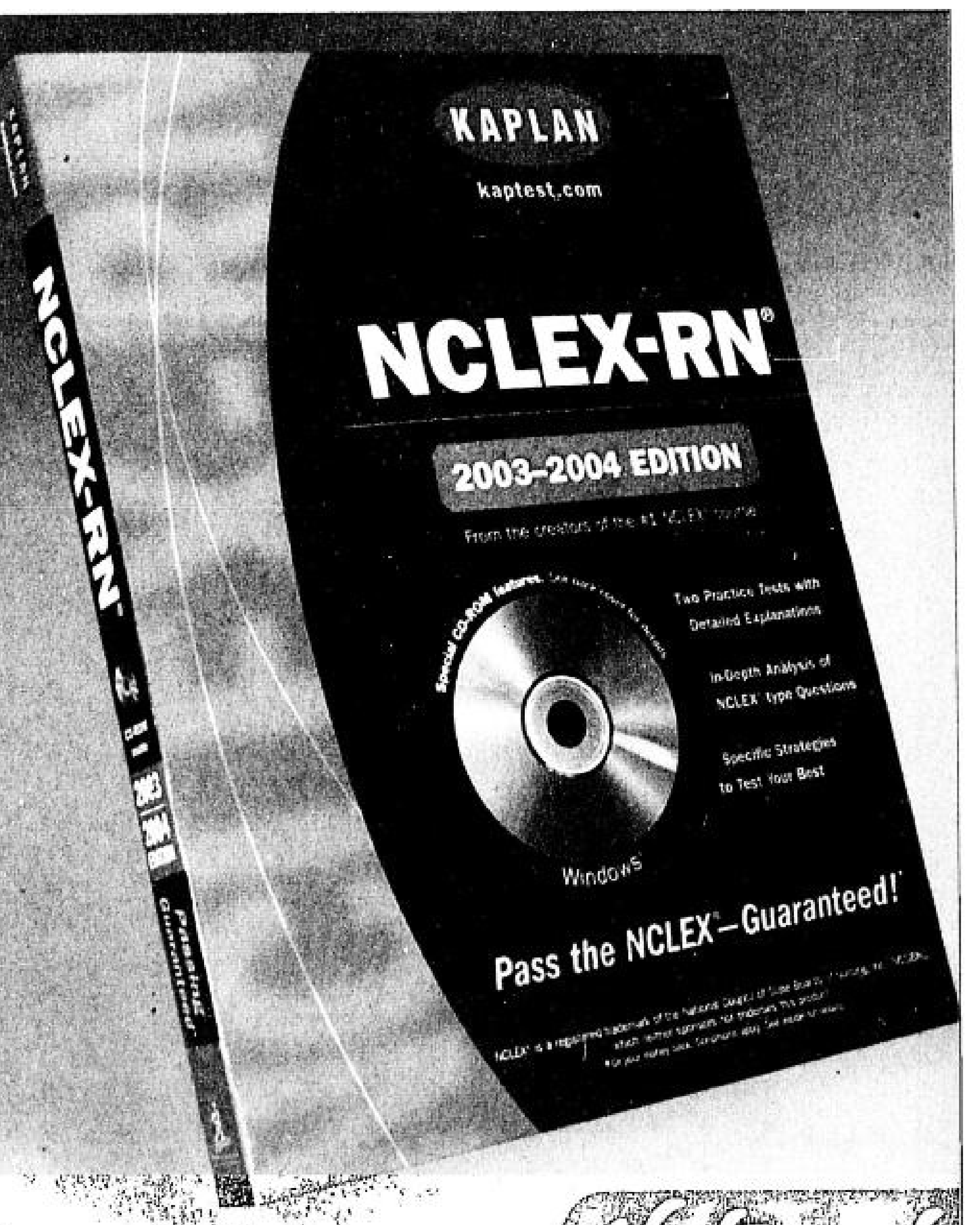
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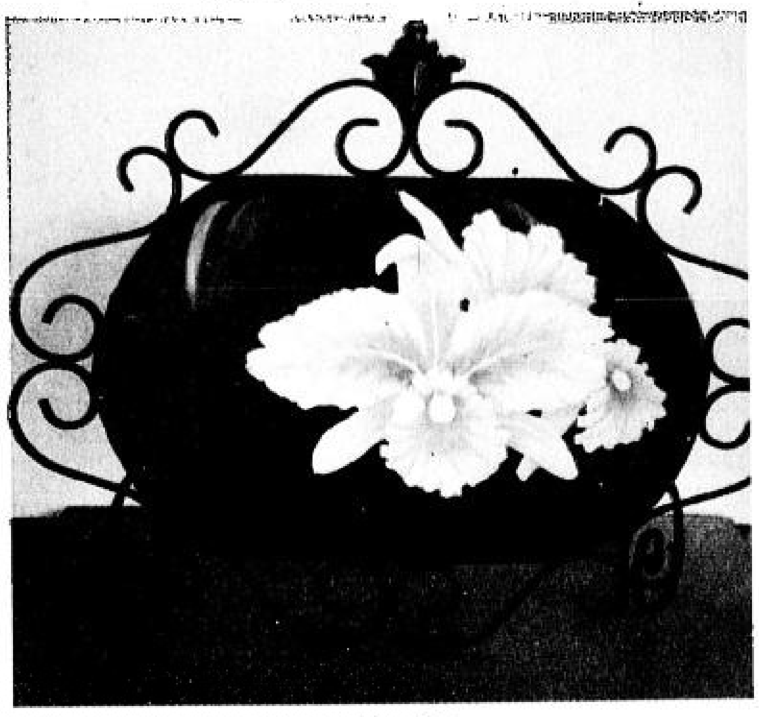


"WHITE Cattleyas" by Addie Cukingnam

Ocean depths, floral heights

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

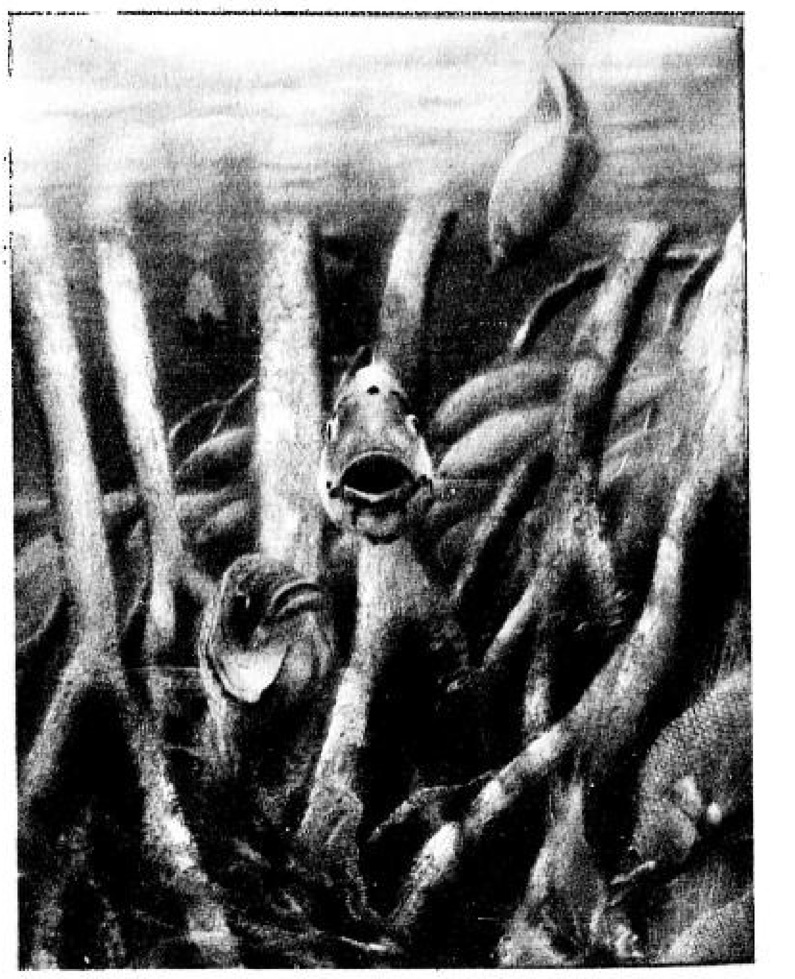
THIS month has been a particularly rewarding season for art lovers who take great pleasure in viewing the bountiful worlds of fish and flowers.

The hard-nosed cognoscenti may initially dismiss these subjects as being de rigueur, tried-and-tested ways to endear one's art to gallery-goers. But these are precisely the stuff that makes for pleasant surprises when transformed into awe-inspiring creations.

For Neil Caral, an artist and aquaculturist from Davao, the subject of marine life is a constant source of euphoric delight, grounded on the ecological canon that seeks to protect and preserve all living things on this planet.

The exhibit "Visions of Water World" (Art Center, SM Megamall, until July 2) reaffirms his commitment to his chosen theme.

A fisheries graduate, diver and multi-environmentalist, Caral has investigated through his art the undersea world, the interconnected biosphere and ecosystem that has a bearing on the fast-deteriorating global environment.



"NEW Life at the Old Form" by Neil Caral

The artist, largely self-taught, has been drawing since he was a child, but picked up painting seriously only a year or two after college.

From illustration board to canvas board, he first worked from aquarium magazines as reference and, having taken up diving, soon embarked on underwater expeditions to observe the ocean world up close and personal.

Ever the astute documentarist of marine life, Caral invariably draws and paints his subjects of fish menagerie in their habitats, zeroing in not merely on a particular aquatic character but capturing on canvas the tableaux of the species' life cycle and ecological interrelationships.

Thus, in most of the works, viewers are awed not just by the remarkable fidelity of his fish portraits, but even more by the swirling spectacle of his mise-en-sea, the multitudinous life forms that lurk in the depths of the ocean.

Captured in diptych and mostly triptych formats, these are scenes perhaps better left to the magic of underwater photography, but which Caral has ably captured in remarkable ways.

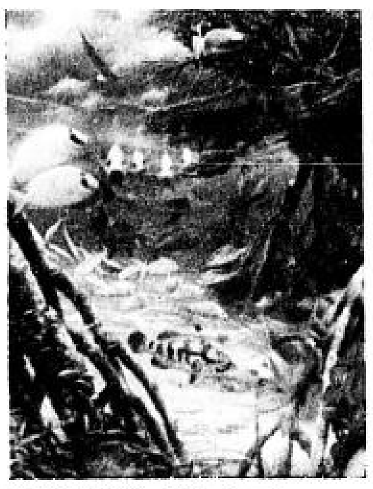
The killer whales are captured in a feeding frenzy in "Basic Instinct," with the great white shark and the blue shark feasting on their prey. But the more ferocious black-and-white killer whales, the largest and fastest of the natural predators of sharks, are just about to make their way.

There, too, are the Spanish dancer nudibranches doing their own number in "Fandango," their nubile bodies in resplendent colors, flapping and folding in pursuit of each other in a courtship dance right in a coral garden of teeming sea life.

What is more remarkable with Caral's work is his ability to reproduce in such intricately detailed manner both the quality and hues of the water, as well as the motion and action of the creatures underneath the surface.

In "Summer Surf," for instance, the artist shows contrasting views of the turbulent blue-green surface where dolphins surf and dive and the still deep bottom floor, where a large variety of colorful creatures swim, totally unmindful of the more able-bodied company.

The most magisterial piece in the exhibit is a triptych called "Golpo San Jose," where a swarm of dolphins feast on schooling smelts, while around them penguins and sea lions join them, and, from a distance, a snooty killer whale is just about ready to swoop down on them.



"SUMMER Surf" by Caral

These are scenes straight out of National Geographic and Discovery Channels, but now more vividly dramatized by Caral's brushwork.

Saying it with flowers

Another artist who shares Caral's deep affinity for nature's bounty is Addie Cukingnan, a painter with an unwavering passion for flowers.

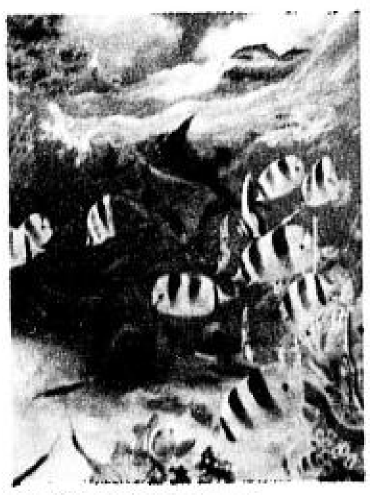
In her latest suite extolling flower power (Renaissance Gallery, until today), Cukingnan pursues her subject in all their infinite wonders, documenting their rich and varied shapes, colors and textures.

Calling the suite "Floral Splendor," the artist renders her characteristic bravura by magnifying their sensuous blossoms, enhancing their presence with leaves, branches and twigs and such other appurtenances of still life as jars and vases.

Cukingnan has an admirable sense of composition, aided by unwavering brushwork that further reveals great skill at configuration.

It is likewise gratifying that she frames each work in delicately mounted wrought iron medium, which at least solves the problem of having to hang these pieces on walls.

E-mail gdormiendo@yahoo.com



"JUNCTION" by Caral

CUKINGNAM with her floral splendors

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ALESSANDRA de Rossi plays a neophyte teacher in a small village.

Small film wins big

Gil Portes' 'Mga Munting Tinig,' back in theaters starting July 2, is proof that an intelligent, well-made film can triumph despite an absence of glitz

By Gibbs Cadiz

THE FIRST time "Mga Munting Tinig" was shown last year, only seven cinemas carried the film.

Needless to say, it belly-flopped at the box office and vanished soon after, seemingly one more well-meaning Filipino film gone to waste because of the apathy and predilection of local audiences for more high-octane cinematic entertainment.

But "Mga Munting Tinig" proved to be more resilient. The frosty reception at home only spurred di-

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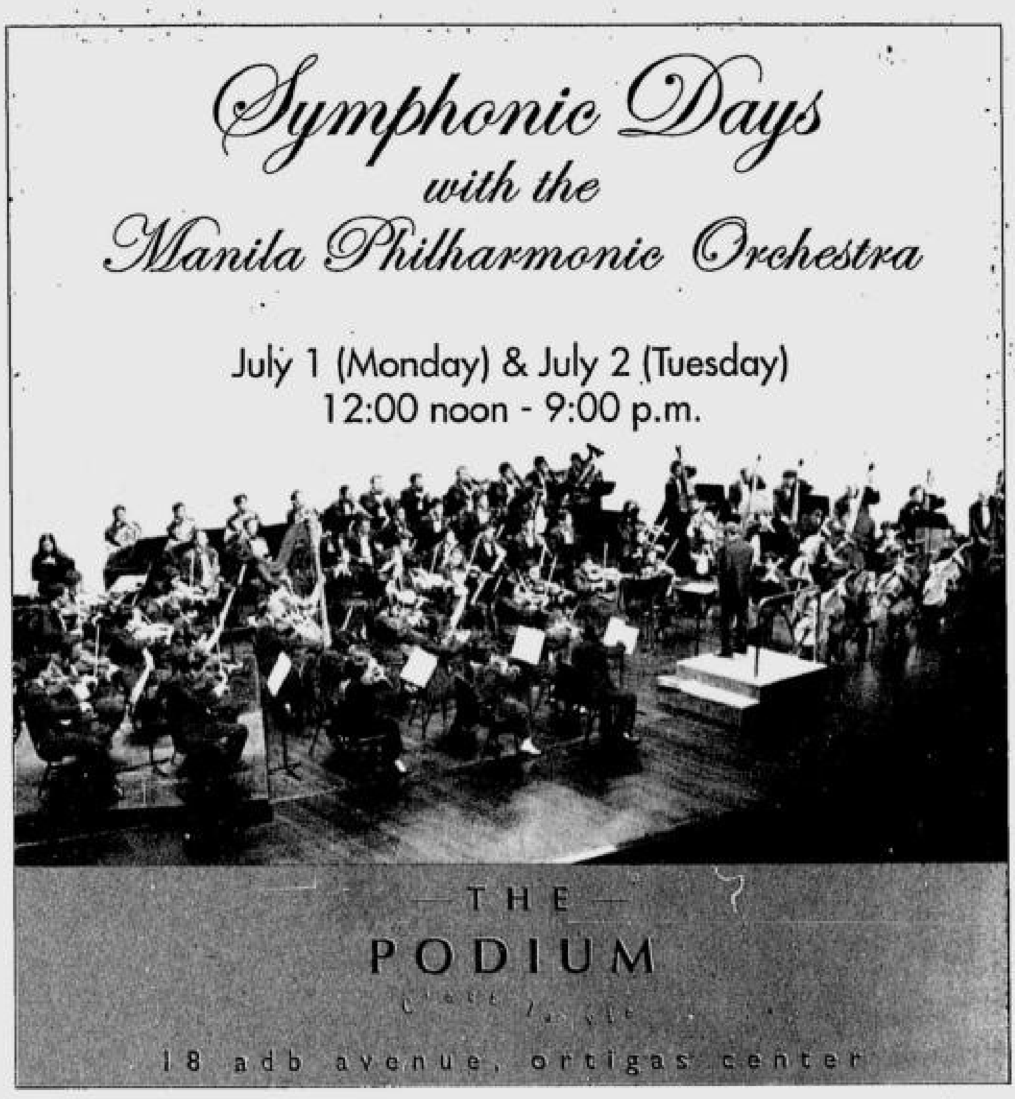

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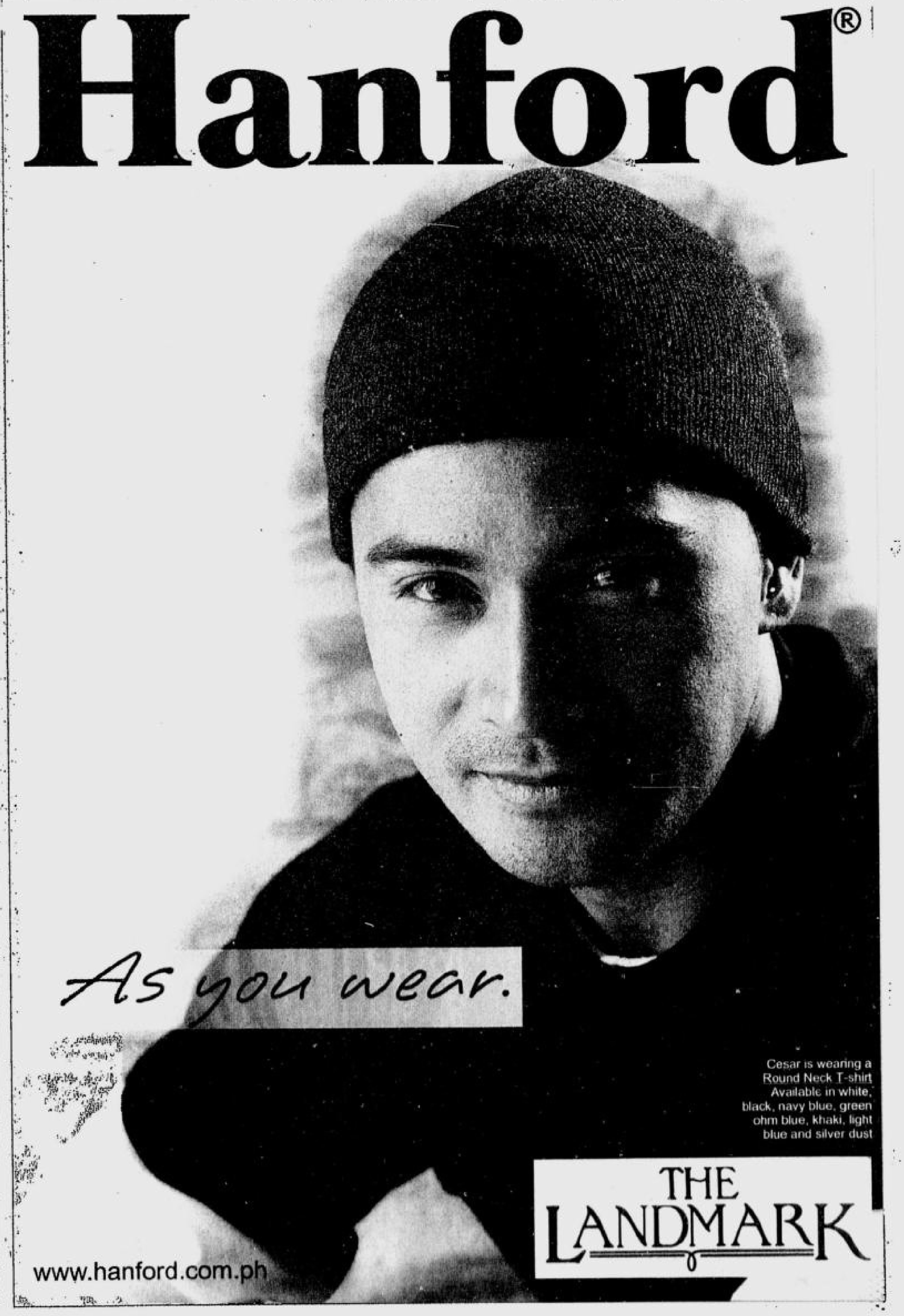

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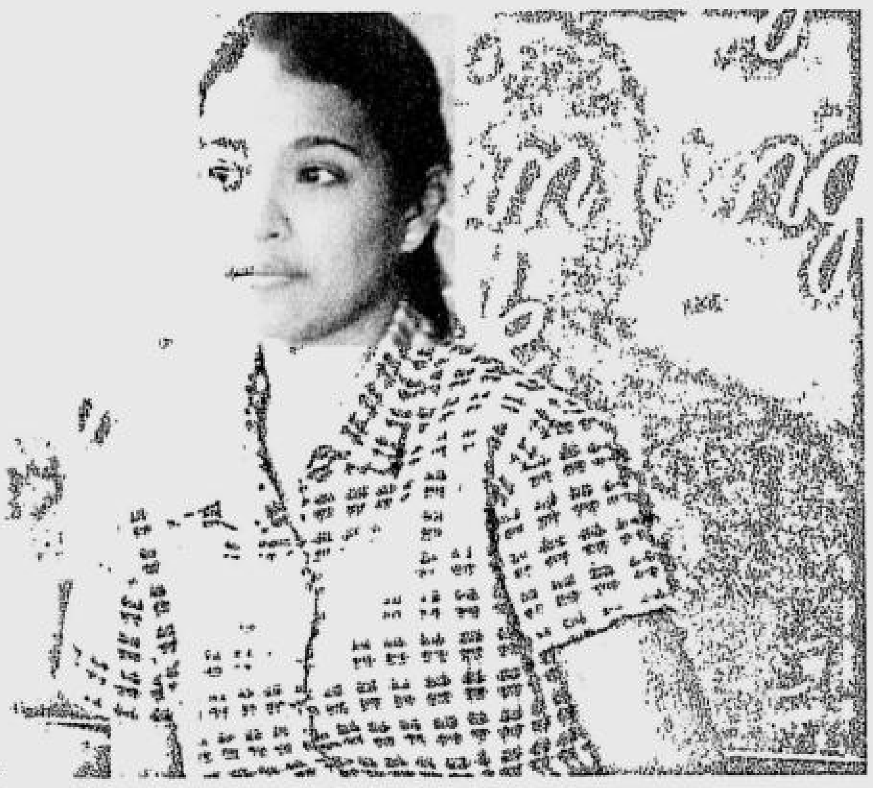

ALESSANDRA de Rossi plays a neophyte teacher in a small village.

Gil Portes' 'Mga Munting Tinig,' back in theaters starting July 2, is proof that an intelligent, well-made film can triumph despite an absence of glitz

Small film wins big

By Gibbs Cadiz

THE FIRST time "Mga Munting Tinig" was shown last year, only seven cinemas carried the film.

Needless to say, it belly-flopped at the box office and vanished soon after, seemingly one more well-meaning Filipino film gone to waste because of the apathy and predilection of local audiences for more high-octane cinematic entertainment.

But "Mga Munting Tinig" proved to be more resilient. The frosty reception at home only spurred di-

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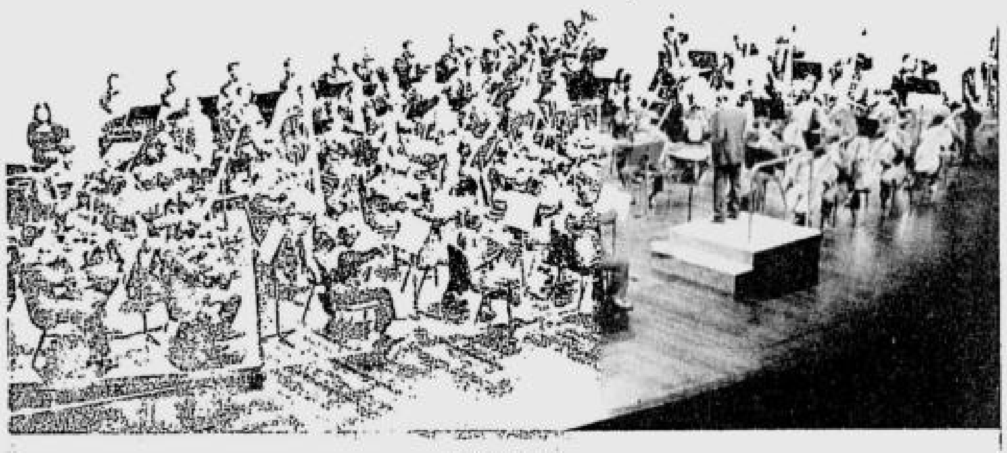

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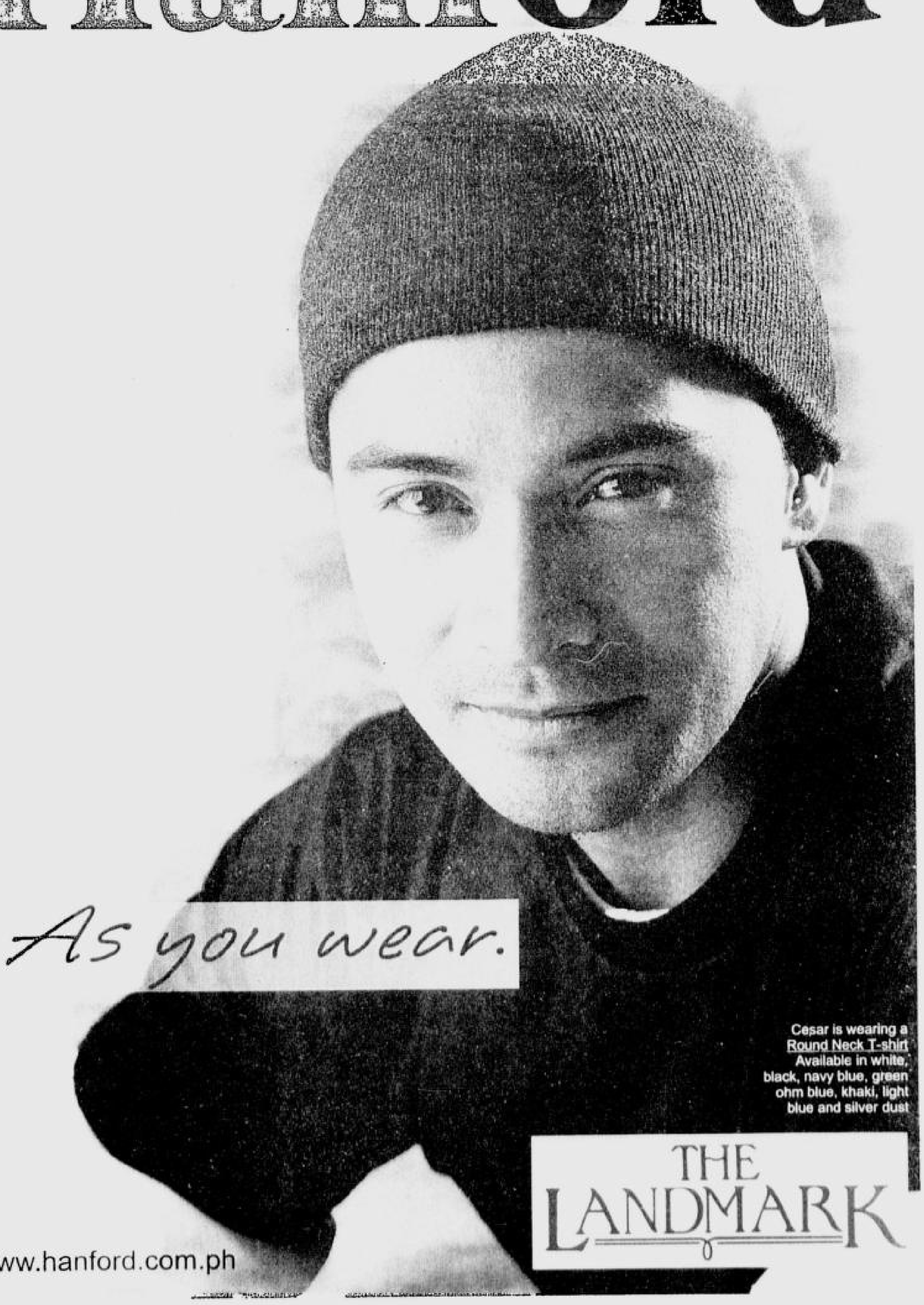

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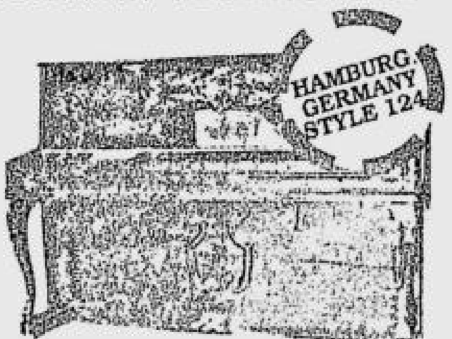

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National Anti-Poverty Commission

NAPC - firm and focused in fighting poverty

THE NATIONAL Anti-Poverty Commission (NPC) remains headstrong in reducing poverty in the Philippines. Its accomplishments, achieved with the support of other catalysts - government agencies, local government units, corporate entities and the basic sectors - show NAPC's dedication to its mandate. Much has been achieved but much remains to be done. But NAPC will resolutely face this challenge in keeping with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's vision of a Strong Republic.

NAPC is the lead agency and houses the coordinating secretariat of Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi), the strategic framework and program for poverty reduction of the Macapagal-Arroyo Administration. It provides policy review; targeting, planning and programming support; as well as monitoring and feedback mechanisms for Kalahi.

NAPC Secretariat technical units are focused on the following key result areas:

Macro Policy Development

- Study, consultation and refinement of the poverty reduction strategy framework of government, Key macro-development and poverty issues.
- Integration of poverty reduction in the national, economic and social development plans.

Sectoral Policy Development and National Government Agency Coordination

- Study, consultation, recommendation of sectoral policies contributing to poverty reduction and empowerment of basic sectors through national government programs

Coordination and convening of inter-agency bodies for responses to basic sectors' agenda.

Localization of Poverty Reduction Strategies

- Establishing enabling and capacity-building mechanisms for poverty diagnosis, targeting, planning, implementing and monitoring at local level.
- Model or prototype-building and dissemination of good practices for local poverty reduction strategies.

Basic Sector Coordination

- Consultation with basic sector and civil society groups regarding the poverty reduction strategies and thrusts of government.
- Guiding and enabling the process of selection of basic sector representatives to the Commission.

The NAPC Secretariat also links with groups from civil society, the academe, private sector and donor agencies to provide technical and resource supports for the poverty reduction strategies and programs. It provides information, communication and advocacy materials to popularize the anti-poverty goals, means and results to various stakeholders, especially the basic sectors.

LAUNCHING of Kalahi Water Project Brgy. Botlog, Concepcion, Iloilo

LAUNCHING of Kalahi Water Project Brgy. Botlog, Concepcion, Iloilo

The Peaceful Resolution: Basic sectors support peace negotiations

DURING the 3rd NAPC En Banc meeting, 13 sectors signed a Peace Resolution presented to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. In it the basic sectors-signatories enumerated the ill effects of armed conflict on civilian casualties, especially children, women, IPs and PWDs. They also mentioned the effects of armed conflicts on tourism, small enterprises and the economy. They highlighted the severe lack of basic services for many communities, which are further degraded by armed conflicts.

Through the Statement, the basic sectors urged the Government of the Philippines and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) "to return to formal peace negotiations and pursue them, building on the gains already achieved in previous peace talks." Moreover, they appealed to all parties to minimize conflict and armed violence in the interest of protecting civilians by respecting human rights and International Humanitarian Law; implementing confidence-building measures that take their cue from similar peace processes in other countries; and integrating the social reform agenda of the basic sectors into the peace agreements.

KALAHI in Sulu

The NAPC is composed of a government sector component, with 13 national government agencies and presidents of the four Local Government leagues; and a basic sector component, with 14 sectoral representative. The President of the Republic chairs the NAPC. The President is assisted by the Vice-Chairperson for the Government sector, Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman and another Vice-Chairperson for the Basic Sectors. NAPC is supported by a Secretariat, headed by Lead Convenor. Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles.

KAPIT-BISIG LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN-COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay

...EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO CREATE AND
BUILD THEIR OWN FUTURE

Empowerment and good governance...These are the goals of the KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project, an innovative anti-poverty project implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development starting this year in partnership with the local government units.

KALAHI-CIDSS is a community-driven project which aims to reduce poverty by providing funding support for basic infrastructure and livelihood projects and improve governance by providing training programs and other capacity-building activities. Its highly participatory nature is meant to empower communities to take common decisions and act collectively to address their problems, manage resources efficiently and effectively, and ensure accountability from those who govern them.

The Principles of KALAHI-CIDSS

Guided by the principles of localized-decision making, transparency, inclusiveness, simplicity and sustainability, KALAHI-CIDSS relies heavily on the cooperation and active participation of the community members throughout the whole process of the 16-step project cycle and the full support of the local government.

The 16-step cycle has four major stages. It starts with the **social preparation** phase, where communities are oriented on the project and trained on participatory situation analysis so they would be able to identify their own problems and needs and come up with the best project to respond to these needs. Then the community goes through the **project development** and **project selection** stage where they are trained to come up with project concept paper and a full-blown project proposal for submission to a municipal inter-barangay forum that decides which projects will be prioritized for that cycle. The 16-step ends with **project implementation, monitoring, operations and maintenance.**

Each barangay goes through three project cycles. Each project cycle consists of a six to eight-month social preparation period and a four to six-month barangay project implementation.

Throughout the process, the main players are the community folk because it is essential that they have strengthened capacities and a stronger feeling of ownership of the projects. These will impact on greater participation in governance, thus, contributing to their empowerment and the project's sustainability.

The pilot test

DSWD pilot-tested the KALAHI-CIDSS Project in Dolores Quezon in July 2002 in barangays Bulakin I, Cabatang, Dagatan, Mangahan, Pinagdanglayan, and Putol allocating a total grant of P1.8 million to be spent with local cost sharing. Dolores is a 5th class municipality belonging to the third district of Quezon Province. It is composed of 16 barangays with a total population of 20,749.

Mr. Dennis delos Santos, Area Coordinator of Concepcion, Iloilo, facilitates the community workshop on Participatory Situation Analysis with the elected barangay volunteers. Volunteerism is high in KALAHI-CIDSS areas with an average of 20 volunteers per barangay representing all sitios to ensure that all sectors and groups are represented and involved in the process.

WELCOME
H.E. PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President Arroyo leads the launching of KALAHI-CIDSS:KKB in Concepcion, Iloilo

The six pilot barangays went through the process of participatory rapid situation analysis to identify their problems, project development workshop, and inter-barangay project selection.

On June 24, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated a three-classroom school building in Barangay Putol. Other finished projects are a health center in Barangay Pinagdanglayan and a 455-meter road construction project in Barangay Manggahan. Ongoing project is a Level II deep-well water system project in Barangay Dagatan. Total cost of all these projects is P3.2M with P1.8 million from KALAHI-CIDSS and P1.4M from local government and community contributions.

Tested and proven

KALAHI-CIDSS has yielded positive results in improving the plight and empowering the residents of the pilot barangays. It has brought about higher community participation to barangay assemblies, and improved capacities in project planning, implementation and project's sustainability. Other benefits noted are the responsiveness of project interventions to community needs, lower cost of projects to national government, on time completion of projects, and local job creation during construction period.

The phase 1 areas

In January this year, KALAHI-CIDSS was launched in 11 municipalities: Hingyon, Ifugao; Dolores, Quezon; Batuan, Masbate; Concepcion, Iloilo; Enrique Villanueva, Siquijor; Sulat, Eastern Samar; Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte; Munai, Lanao del Norte; Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte; Malapatan, Sarangani; and Jabonga, Agusan del Norte.

To date, 201 barangay assembly orientations were conducted on KALAHI-CIDSS Project and 2,000 barangay representation and project volunteers elected and trained.

The barangays are assisted in capacity building activities by the 11 area coordinators and community facilitators deployed by DSWD in 11 municipalities.

Starting July this year, KALAHI-CIDSS will expand to 57 additional municipalities under phase 2. Pre-deployment training for hired field workers in these areas are about to be finished.

Project coverage

KALAHI-CIDSS will be implemented in six years in some 5,000 barangays, in about 200 municipalities of 42 provinces and 20 urban poor barangays. The Project will involve some 50,000 community volunteers and about 1,000 community facilitators.

This Barangay Health Center in Dolores, Quezon was constructed by community volunteers for only P378,000.

DSWD Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Mayor Rodolfo San Jose of Dolores cut the ceremonial ribbon during the inaugural rites of Barangay Health Center in Dolores Quezon.

This is a three-classroom building furnished with toilet and bathroom completed by community volunteers for only P717,000.

KALAHI-CIDSS
Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay
Pagtulungan Natin!

Department of Social Welfare and Development

Small film wins big

From page F1

rector Gil Portes and the film's producers to bring the film to outside viewers and take a crack at international recognition. And that's how they found a much bigger and more appreciative audience for their modest masterpiece.

In the last several months, "Mga Munting Tinig" has become one of the most honored Filipino films in recent times, winning Best Picture honors in the Urian, Star and Famas awards, and winning Best Picture, Director and Screenplay at the Palm Beach International Film Festival. It was also given the Audience Favorite award at the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Last year, the American Film Institute (AFI) chose it as one of 10 New Asian Classics for 2002—the same AFI that ranked "Citizen Kane" as the greatest film of all time, and Gregory Peck's Atticus Finch in "To Kill A Mockingbird" as the greatest hero in American movie history.

Now local moviegoers have a chance to make up for their earlier criminal indifference to the film when "Mga Munting Tinig" begins a splashier repeat run on July 2.

Splashier, because this time the exhibition is under the auspices of Warner Bros., which has acquired the film for in-country theatrical and video rights. Portes' film is the first Filipino movie to ever score such a deal with a major Hollywood studio.

"'Mga Munting Tinig' is a shining contribution to the Warner Bros. library of titles, and we are honored to distribute it locally," said Francis Soliven, general manager of Warner Bros. Pictures International Distribution (Philippines) in a statement. "We're proud of these Filipino artists whose talents and achievements are world-class."

For its distribution in Canada, the film has also been purchased by Mongrel Media, a top specialty film distributor based in Toronto, where "Mga Munting Tinig" had its world premiere during the Toronto International Film Festival.

Heartfelt

The journey of "Mga Munting Tinig" from obscurity to glory is fresh proof that Philippine cinema can rise above its generally vapid, mercantile orientation and come up with a production that's intelligent and heartfelt enough to win acclaim, spur serious thought, and make significant money on the side (to go by the windfall it must get from the Warner Bros. deal).

In other words, it's one film that obviously had its priorities right. Portes sought first to make a good film, trusting that the money would come afterwards when audiences pay up to watch a refreshing alternative to the gratuitous sex, violence, special effects and plain bad storytelling present in so many other contemporary movies.

Well, he got the first part right. The rewards that came much later are a sweet vindication of his faith and vision in his work.

"Mga Munting Tinig" is not the best thing to happen to Filipino movies. There are quite a few things to dislike in it. It is derivative, tedious in places, and grindingly earnest. It hews too closely to other inspirational movies in its rigid exposition and melodramatic arch. Its ending is pointless, at least for purposes of the advocacy for better public education that the film attaches itself to. (The idealistic schoolteacher played by Alessandra de Rossi decides to migrate to the US in the end. How's that for breaking the mold?)

And anyone who has seen Zhang Yimou's "Not One Less," Majid Majidi's "Children Of Heaven," or even Wes Craven's "Music Of The Heart" knows that material like this has been presented with greater mastery and emotional heft.

Still, Portes does come up with an affecting but clear-eyed slice of barrio life in his film. He gets all the brittle details right—the bumbling, gossipy but dedicated teachers, the defeatist principal who hawks ice candy to her young wards, the town's genial "Bumbay" lender, the paralyzing sense of powerlessness and atrophy that grips anybody who has lived in a rustic, unchanging, poverty-stricken town.

It's a tough but tender-hearted portrait, much of it ringing true. And it helps enormously that the characters are not broad caricatures, but people clearly identifiable to anyone who is remotely familiar with the distressing state of education in the Philippine countryside.

Portes' filmic tricks may be spotty, but his heart and mind are in the right place.

Precious

That, perhaps above all, is what makes "Mga Munting Tinig" a precious film, if not a great one. Given the bleak landscape of Filipino movies in general, that a film like this got made at all is surely a welcome development.

Any film that exhibits a modicum of intelligence and heart, that puts faith in the capacity of local audiences to appreciate movies that are thought-provoking, relatively well-made, and has something relevant to say about the times we live in, should be fully supported, if only to let local producers know that there is a market for such offerings.

Come to think of it, not only movie producers, but all other parties who profess concern for Philippine entertainment.

With "Mga Munting Tinig" getting a second crack at the box office, now is the time for the likes of Tita De Villa, Etta Mendez and other so-called advocates against pornography in movies to put their money where their mouths are.

You say you want only good films to be shown in our theaters and television screens? Here's your chance to show that, indeed, you will support a good film when you see one and all your perorations in front of the camera are not mere pompous flummery.

And ordinary moviegoers, too. In a discussion on GMA 7's "Debate" a few months ago, writer Andrew Paredes made the telling point that Filipino audiences get exactly the kinds of movies they deserve.

After all, given a choice between, ahem, "Sex Drive" and "Magnifico," guess which one made more money and more press? And this despite the reams of praise heaped on the latter movie, which, like "Mga Munting Tinig," sank like a rock in the box office.

Who can blame producers, then, for producing crap when it's crap that moviegoers demand?

Warner Bros.' big push for "Mga Munting Tinig" (it will also distribute the film in Asia, and has said it is looking for other Filipino films to acquire) is a show of faith in Filipino moviemaking.

We can do no less. Watch the film, or you've no business complaining about how bad local movies are.

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GIL Portes directs De Rossi.

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DR. Helena Z. Benitez

DR. HELENA Z. Benitez, endearingly known as "Tita Helen," to everyone, turned 89 on June 27.

While she wears many hats, she prefers to be called an educator, just like her illustrious parents, the late Dean Conrado Benitez and Francisca Tiron Benitez.

Her father was the first Filipino teacher of Philippine history and economics, who founded the UP College of Business Administration. Her mother, on the other hand, started as a teacher, then cofounded and became president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Benitez is said to be the first woman of the world to be inducted into the Democracy Hall of Fame International Education Division by the National Graduate University, Washington D.C.

At present, the only members of the Democracy Hall of Fame are Presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald Reagan of the United States.

Tita Helen has not only distinguished herself as an educator, but also as an environmentalist, women's advocate and legislator.

The first woman Sikatuna Awardee, she was also the first woman president of the United Nations Environment Program and the first Filipino chair of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She is also the founder of the Philippine Home Economics Association and the Family Life Workshop.

In the Senate where she served for five years, she authored bills for the conservation of municipal forests, tree parks and watershores, and the protection of endangered species such as the monkey-eating eagle and the tamaraw.

Dr. Benitez was likewise the author of bills advocating the promulgation of a national policy on environmental planning, low-cost housing, environmental safeguards and new town developments, among others.

In 1980, she was elected chair of the board of trustees of the 83-year Philippine Women's University, her alma mater and the school founded by her parents. She holds the position up to the present.

EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Shipping company wants to adopt a school

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

FWWPP president Dr. Maria Lim Ayuyao; Reyna Carillo, AVP human resources and corporate communications, Magsaysay Maritime; FWWPP chair Eggie Apostol; and Doris Magsaysay Ho, chair and CEO, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation

DORIS Magsaysay Ho is no stranger to the cause of the Education Revolution. For years, the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, of which she is a trustee, has been helping thousands of public school children develop a love for reading.

Doris is also chair and chief executive officer of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation (MMC).

Recently, she and Reyna Carillo, her assistant vice president for human resources and corporate communications, met with Dr. Maria Lim Ayuyao and Eggie Apostol of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) to talk about how MMC could have its own School Adoption Program.

Over lunch at the ultra-stylish Lolo Dad's, Doris told the FWWPP that she would like the corporation to help improve the reading and English proficiency of public school pupils in Dasmariñas, Cavite, and Bo. Magsaysay in Tondo, Manila.

Reyna said they were thinking of sharing their educational facilities at the Magsaysay Institute of Shipping, like computers and Internet access. They also want to organize tutorial sessions for public school pupils to be conducted by employee volunteers.

Doris added that equal attention should be given to fostering a genuine appreciation for the arts, an area where her mother, the illustrious Anita Magsaysay Ho, has won numerous accolades. She is thinking of organizing the pupils into a folk-dancing group coached by the Bayanihan Dance Troupe.

Who knows? If the kids really work at it, they could bring honor to their school through performances before an appreciative—and paying—audience.

Focus on basic education

Felicitas A. Arroyo, FWWPP corporate secretary and treasurer, called on corporate foundations, donors and non-government organizations to arrange a summit to bring to the front of national attention the advocacy on improving public education.

Arroyo, together with FWWPP chair Ms Apostol and this writer, participated recently in the forum on "Initiatives to Improve Basic Education" organized by the Ford Foundation.

Aside from Milwida M. Guevarra of the Ford Foundation, the cream of corporate philanthropy was there, such as: Petron Foundation's Matti Uylangco and Malou Erni, Cecille Alcantara of the Coca-Cola Foundation, Lizzie Zobel, Mary Margaret Barro and John Holland of Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation; Steven Rood of the Asia Foundation, Billy Luz of the Makati Business Club, Oxfam's Aurora Urgel, Joan Cosico, Norina Ricafort and Pam Celino of the Robinson's Children's Library, Madonna del Mundo of the Museo Pambata Foundation, former Negros Occidental Governor Rafael Coscoluella of Eskwelahan sang Katawhan Negros, Inc., Pilar Habito of the Cahbriba Alternative School and Synergeia Foundation, Dr. Antonio Torralba and Trissa Manalastas of the Synergeia Foundation.

Also present were the Department of Education's Dr. Merlita Noleda, chief of the Bureau of Elementary Education, and Bella Mariñas, assistant chief of the Bureau of Secondary Education.

At the open forum, Makati Business Club's Billy Luz suggested that there should be "an overarching goal for improving public education" to guide donors and foundations as they implement their respective programs.

Coscolluela said the basic goal of the Ford Foundation in holding the forum was to find out how the various organizations could collaborate and share their experience and expertise.

Dr. Noleda and Mariñas told participants that they needed help in the areas of teacher training, development of instructional materials and remedial reading.

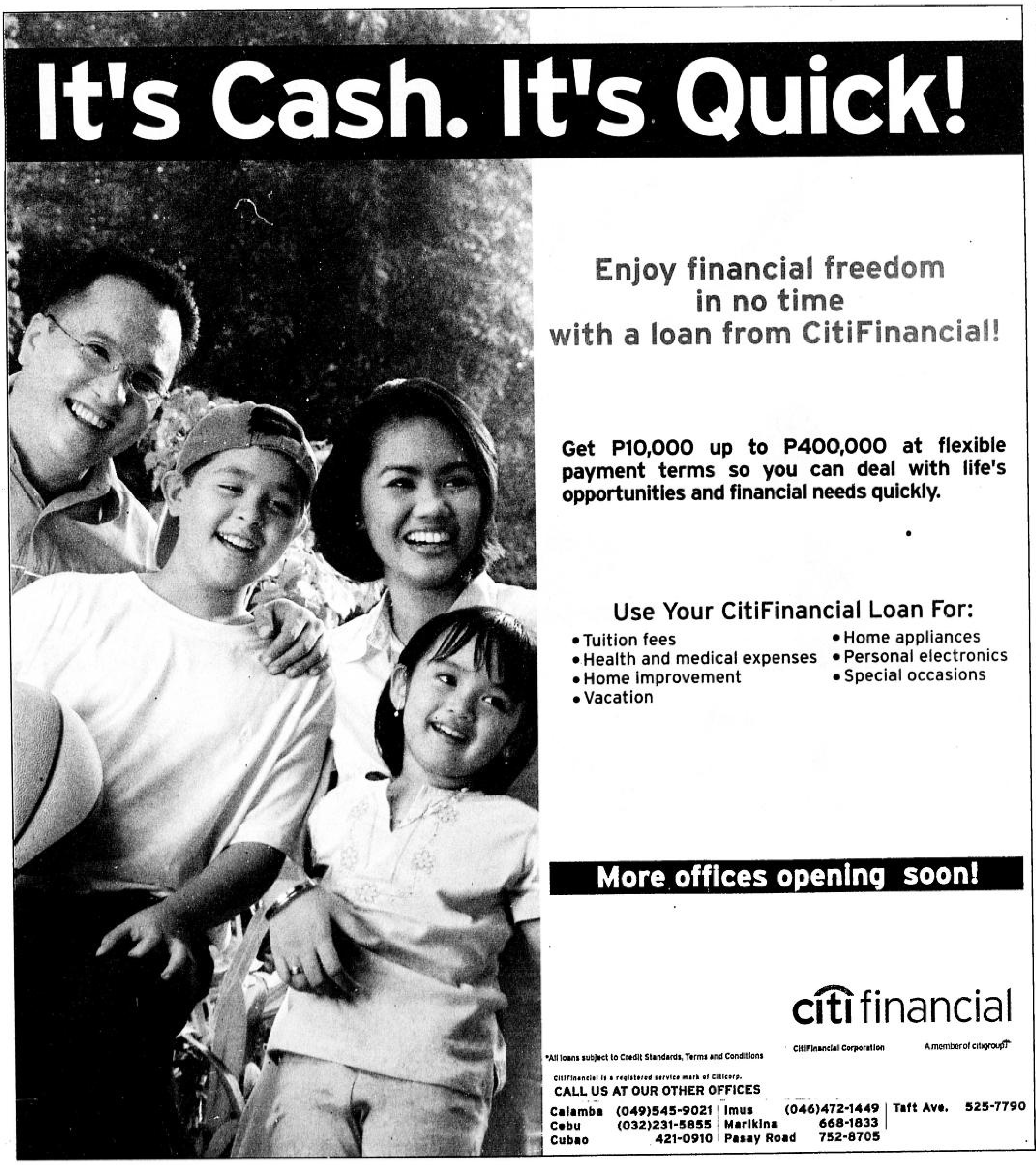
Ties with public schools

Anne Godoy, Assumption College-San Lorenzo director for academic affairs, said the institution must go beyond the confines of its mission schools all over the country and get closer to public schools to remain true to Sr. Marie Eugenie's vision of Education for Social Transformation.

Godoy was at the monthly Assumption College "Kapihan" session where Mentoring the Mentors program director Chinit Rufino and this writer talked about how the school could assume a bigger role in promoting the cause of the Education Revolution in the whole country.

The Kapihan was organized by the Center for Social Involvement. Margaux Romero, program officer, invited the FWWPP representatives "to explore avenues and opportunities for building relationships with public educational institutions."

Chinit, who is an Assumptionista through and through, discussed the Mentoring the Mentors program. The teachers immediately found the program very familiar, which was not surprising because it was modeled after their Teacher Formation program.



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Pinoy language styles tackled

THE ATENEO de Manila University Press will launch "Pahiwatig, Kagawiang Pangkomunikasyon ng Filipino" by Dr. Melba Maggay on July 4, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks in Megamall.

The book is a pioneering study in intercultural and linguistic theory that is helpful to communication and language scholars and students in culture and society, particularly Sikolohiyang Pilipino.

It focuses on the Filipino's use of indirect communication through ambiguity and insinuation. The work is also a useful source of Filipino terms for technical and scientific concepts in the social sciences.

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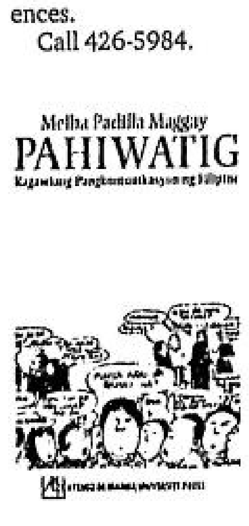
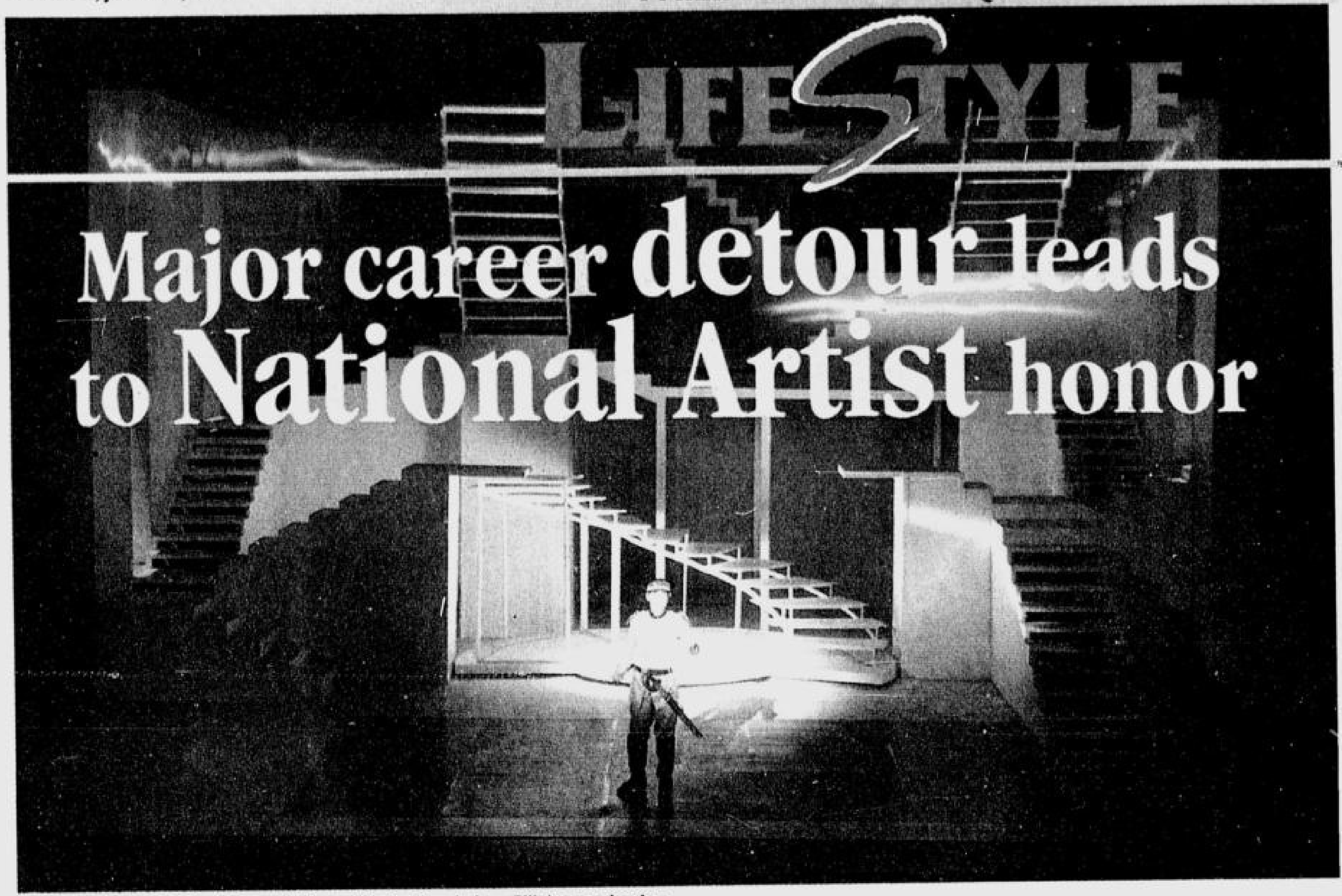


LIFESTYLE

Arts Design

Major career detour leads to National Artist honor


BERNAL'S design for Paul Dumol's "Luna," in the Tanghalang Pilipino production

Salvador Bernal has always imagined ways to bring the dramatic experience closer to the heart and mind of the spectator

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

IN THE LATE '60s, Ateneo de Manila University professor and young director/designer Salvador ("Badong") Bernal chose fine arts (theater design) for his graduate studies in Northwestern University for purely practical reasons.

"I really wanted to study directing," he said, "but it was my impression that to get a scholarship, Fulbright would respond [better] to the needs of theater in the Philippines... the Cultural Center of the Philippines was finished and inaugurated, and the Meralco Theater was built. I had already designed [legendary director] Rolando's [Tinio] productions. My designs were the ones I used for portfolio in applying for an MFA program. I had to put aside my interest in directing to respond to the needs of theater in the country."

NATIONAL Artist for Theater Design Salvador Bernal

Thirty years and 300 productions later ("Rama Hari," "Makbet," "Realizing Rama," "La Boheme," "La Traviata"), there is no doubt Bernal, who pioneered in his craft, has responded well to those needs.

After a screening process spearheaded by the CCP and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), President Gloria Macapaga issued a proclamation conferring the title National Artist on a group of distinguished artists, including Bernal, who was cited for Excellence in Theater Design. The other National Artists for 2003 are Eddie Romero (Film), Virgilio Almario (Literature), Jose Joya (Visual Arts) and Alejandro Roces (Literature).

Impressive credentials

Among Bernal's numerous accomplishments that earned him the distinction were:

"...The sheer number and magnitude of his scenic designs, largely done for the resident companies of the CCP... from 1969 up to the present...

"[His] designs manifest... fine aesthetic sense and quality but also innovation and experimentation...

"...His knowledge of world drama and deep understanding of Philippine history and culture enable him to confidently and judiciously fuse Western, Asian, and Filipino design elements and motifs..."

In a forthcoming CCP-commissioned essay, University of the Philippines Mass Communications College dean and theater historian, Dr. Nicanor Tiongson, gives a more detailed account of how Bernal influenced the development of stage designs in different eras:

"The 1970s and the early 1980s represent a period of experimentation in creating a variety of textures with the use of indigenous materials. In the 1980s and 1990s, [Bernal] explored the

MAJOR/ G2

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MULTIVITAMINS
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Major career detour leads to National Artist honor

From page G1

spatial relations between actors and audiences. Refusing to be bound by the set architecture of the proscenium stage, he imagined ways to bring the dramatic experience closer to the heart and mind of the spectator. In the 1990s, Bernal created works which fused design motifs, silhouettes and details from different periods and culture.

"Whatever the period in his development as a production designer, however, Bernal always stressed the importance of basic research on the clothes and accessories, furniture and interior design, architecture and lifestyle, and the total cultural context of the play or dance he was designing. Notable in his productions is the "authentic" look of period Filipino attires, something he achieved by scientifically analyzing the patterns of actual period *ternos*."

Trip down design history

Going through Bernal's collection was a virtual trip through the history of stage design, says up and coming designer Gino Gonzales, whose own unforgettable images in "Spoliarium" and "Alikabok" moved the plot forward and contributed to the play's emotional power.

Bernal took Gonzales under his wing while the latter was a junior Communication Arts student at the Ateneo. The National Artist returned to his alma mater to pass on his knowledge and training to a new generation of artists. "I was a part of Tanghalang Ateneo. [Badong] would drop by to see the works of his students. He was very direct... and would tell you what was missing. After graduation, I became his assistant in some of his productions, buying the materials, ironing details, coordinating fittings."

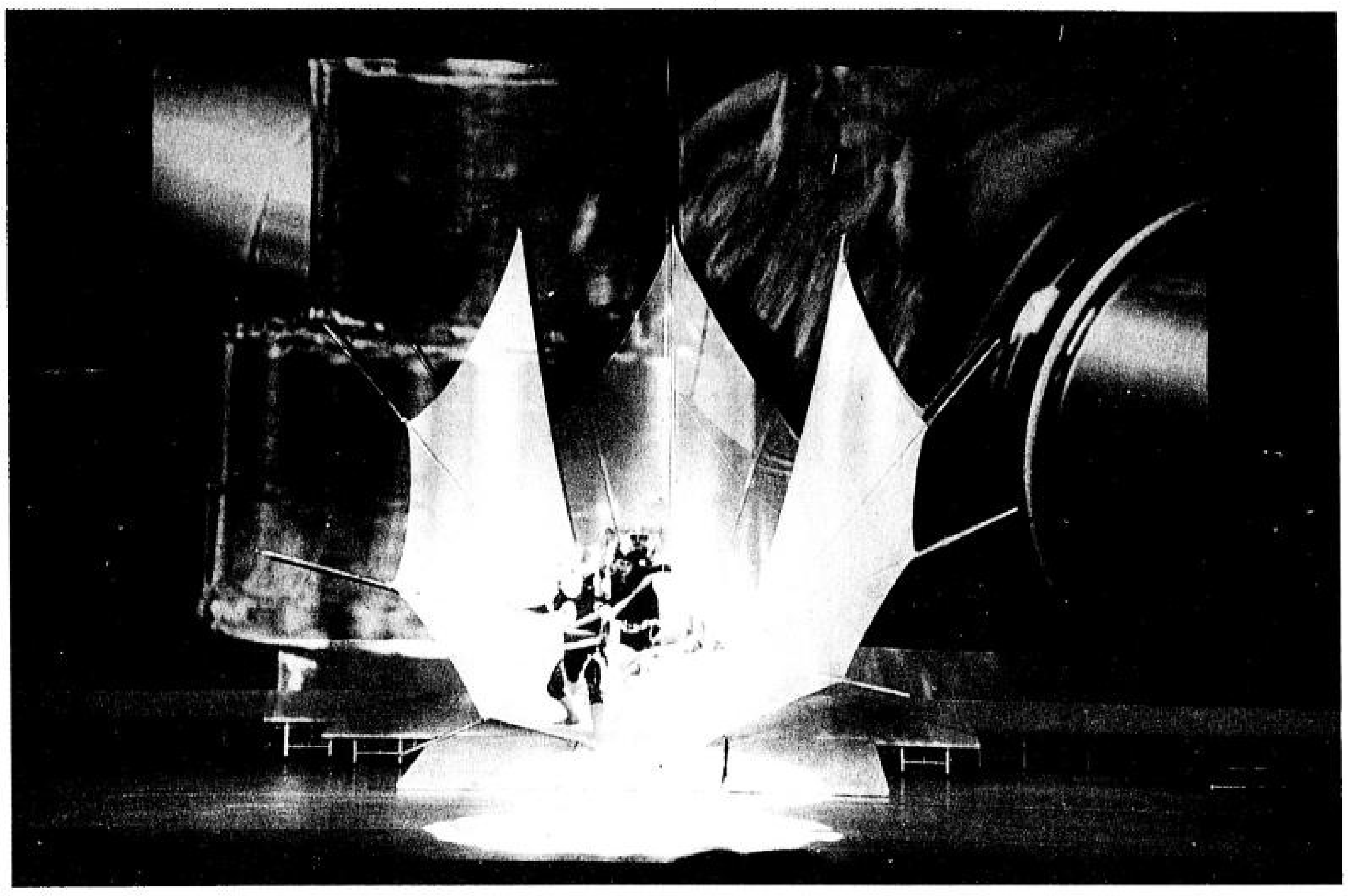
He credits Bernal with his decision to take up Masters of Fine Arts at the New York University [NYU]. "I did it because of his prodding, and he helped connect me with the NYU. He helps people. One thing about Badong is that he is so secure about his talent, he is not threatened by anyone."

Although he has already gained his own place in modern Philippine stage, Gonzales acknowledges his mentor's influence.

"There was a phase in my design career when I would build on his design sensibilities. I would apply the same principles he [used] in a... show on what I was doing.

"Badong has very strong images for each production, and that leaves an aftertaste in your mouth. You tend to carry it to your own show. He's a poet and a dramaturgist—his designs go beyond decoration; they all have dramatic weight that pushes the action forward. His designs are space looking for actors."

Passing the torch



BERNAL'S futurist-inspired design for "Realizing Rama," an Asean-wide co-production premiered in Hanoi and which toured the Asean and Europe

The National Artist Awards recognized Bernal's contributions that paved the way for others: the conceptualization and establishment of the Theater Arts Program at the Ateneo, where he teaches set/costume design, aesthetics, and design; the various workshops and seminars he has conducted; production design apprenticeship, theater lighting, etc.; and his help in professionalizing the industry via the establishment of the Philippine Association of Theater Designers and Technicians (Patdat), the OISTAT Center of the Philippines, and the Organisation Internationale des Scenographes Architectes et Techniciens de Theater.

Bernal has always maintained that economic difficulties should not be an excuse for less than world-class work. Tiongson said Bernal's designs surpassed budget limitations in productions like "*Pagkahaba-haba man ng Prusisyon*" or "*La Traviata*".

"He called attention to native materials—the *abaca*, the *katsa*—which we never noticed before. And out of supposed scrap material, he created things of beauty."

Bernal acknowledges that the design industry "has gone a long way."

"What is important is to keep this going, and to develop further, and be competitive with the world. A designer here must be as good as anyone in the world. We have to keep up to date with the technology, the sensibilities of the times.

"However, the problem with theater is that only the big productions can afford these new gadgets. My biggest difficulty then was, given the limited budget, being forced to come up with theatrical statements that looked more expensive than they usually were. Ultimately, it comes down to the inventiveness and the creativity of the Filipino.

"As an artist, you have to grow and be able to develop and direct. I won't be staying around. Others have to follow. If you are good, you will last. If you have *ningas kugon*, you won't."

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Peta founder to be honored by peers

THE CELEBRATED Cecille Guidote-Alvarez

SEVERAL generations of theater, film, television and radio professionals will pay tribute to a prime mover of Philippine theater, Cecille Guidote Alvarez, on July 1, 6 p.m., at St. Paul's College, Quezon City.

Alvarez is the founder and artistic director of The Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) and its repertory group, the Peta Kalinangan Ensemble.

Since its founding 1967, Peta has fostered the career of many of the country's foremost actors, directors, scriptwriters and stage professionals.

Guidote oversaw Peta's growth until 1972, when she fled martial law for the US shortly after receiving the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Outstanding Artist in Public Service.

While in exile, she founded the New York-based Petal group in affiliation with the world-renowned Café La Mama Theater. Together with her husband, former senator and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, she was active in promoting the anti-Marcos opposition cause Edsa I.

She also founded the Earthsavers Dream Ensemble based at the Ninoy Aquino Wildlife Park in Q.C.

In television, Guidote also created the multi-awarded drama series "Balintataw."

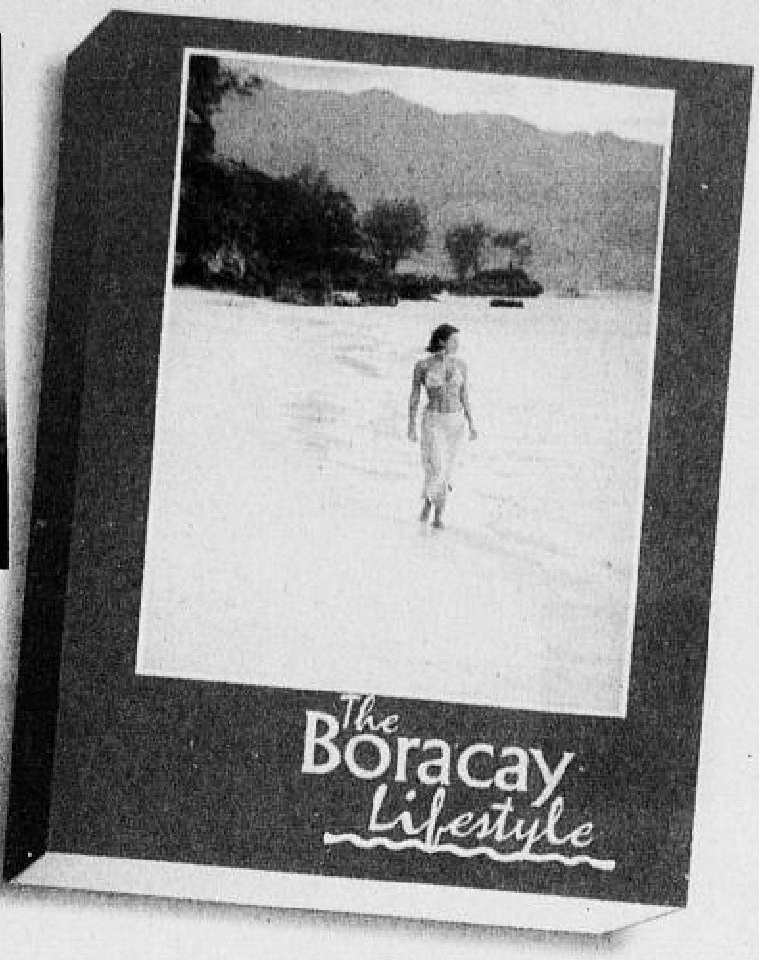
The tribute will open with a mass to be officiated by Fr. James B. Reuter, SJ., followed by a dinner reception where excerpts from Peta's landmark productions will be staged.

Repertory Philippines founder Zenaida Amador, film actor Robert Arevalo, and CCP president Nes Jardin are among the personalities from stage, film and cultural institutions who will pay tribute to Alvarez.

There will be videotaped messages from Café La Mama icon Ellen Stewart, Minneapolis' Playhouse in the Park Brooks Jones and NY-based Filipino playwright Alberto Florentino.

Call 817-5675 (Bonjin Bolinao); 475-4022 (Jojo Salamante); 0917-8988841 (Noel Mallonga); or 0917-8152549 (Nick Lizaso).

Coffee-table book captures magic of Boracay



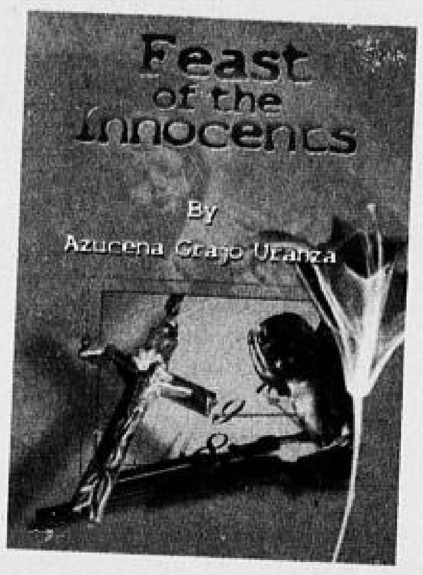
THE SPLENDOR and magnificence of Boracay is captured in the first-ever coffee-table book on the island, "The Boracay Lifestyle," a 220-page collection of interesting stories and amazing photographs that is a colorful journey to one of the world's premier tourist destinations.

Publisher Edd Fuentes has enlisted some of the country's well-known writers and editors to present the many facets of Boracay life. Maurice Arcache, Stella Arnaldo, Tina Cabanayan, Lito Ocampo Cruz, Tanya Lara, Lester Ledesma, Francine Medina and Leah Puyat take us on an exciting trip to the island paradise.

Putting color to their words are beautiful photographs by Alex Van Hagen, Lester Ledesma, George Tapan, Nestor Santiago, Erwin Lim, Arnold Jumpay and Robert Booc, as well as the finalists of the Boracay Lifestyle photo contest.

"The Boracay Lifestyle" is published by Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., in cooperation with Fairways and Bluewaters and The Sun Village Boracay Resort.

The book is available at Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., Unit 6D, Cypress Garden Condominium, 112 Rufino (formerly Herrera St.), Legaspi Village, Makati City. For information, call 893-9355, 816-3109, 892-6184; fax 812-4797; or e-mail at fuentes@pacific.net.ph or fpni@pacific.net.ph. Special discounts will be given for bulk orders.



Epic novel off the press

BOOKMARK Inc. recently released Azucena Grajo Uranza's novel "Feast of the Innocents," the latest book published under Bookmark's Filipiniana program.

"Feast of the Innocents" is the fourth book in the tetralogy of novels by Uranza covering a hundred years. The four novels present a saga of two middle-class Filipino families and their descendants holding on to the old and trusted values of courage, decency and dignity as they find themselves in the center of upheavals in the country's journey toward nationhood.

The first book of the collection is "A Passing Season," set during the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War. The second book, "Women of Tammuz" (still unpublished), tells of the humiliation and debasement of the country during the Japanese Occupation.

The third installment, "Bamboo in the Wind," is a story of the nation's travails during the dictatorship; and the last, "Feast of the Innocents," tells of the post-Edsa years and asks: What have we become after a hundred years of hardship and struggle?

This latest book carries a foreword by National Artist Alejandro R. Roces.

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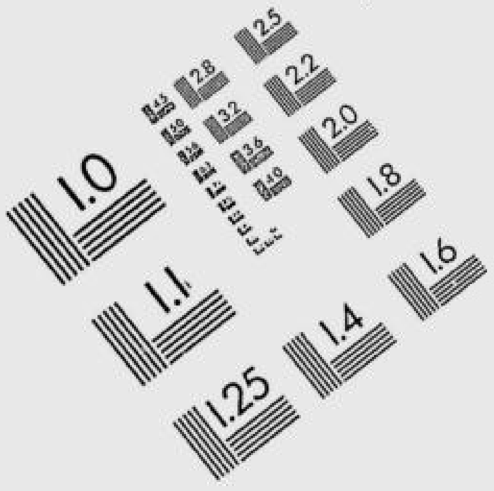
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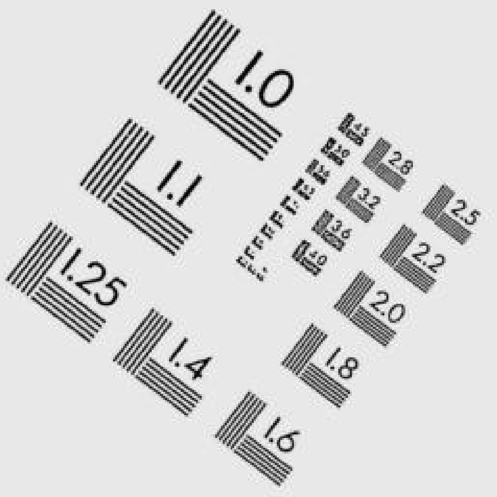
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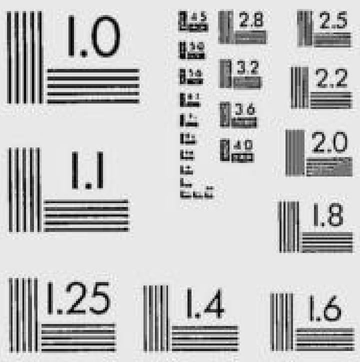
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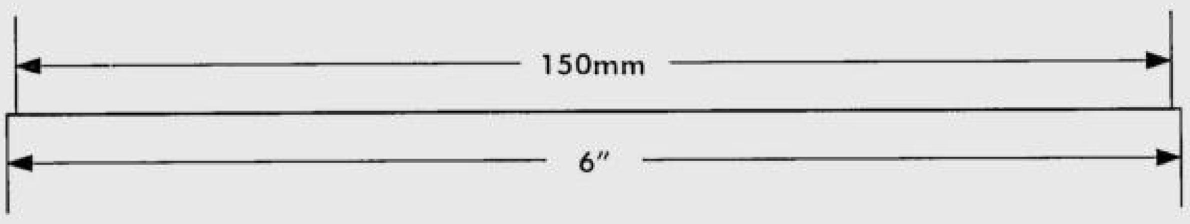

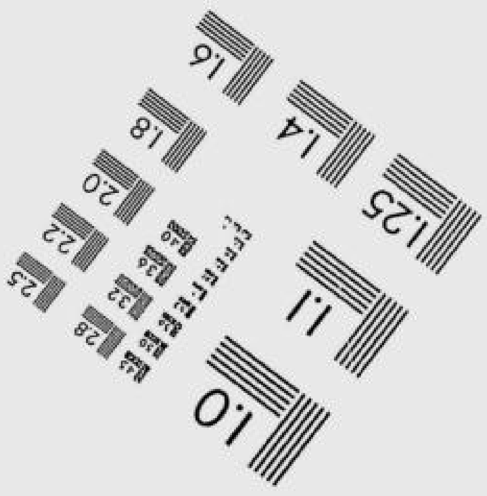
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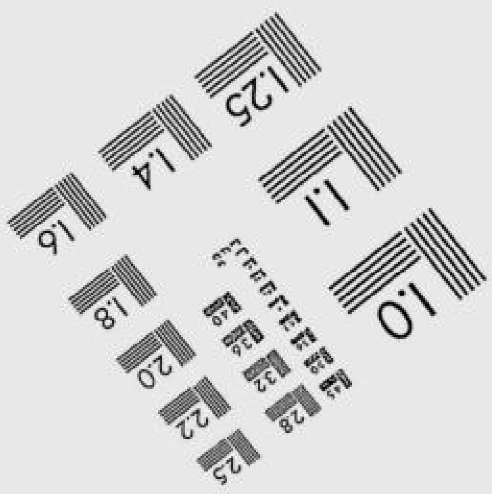
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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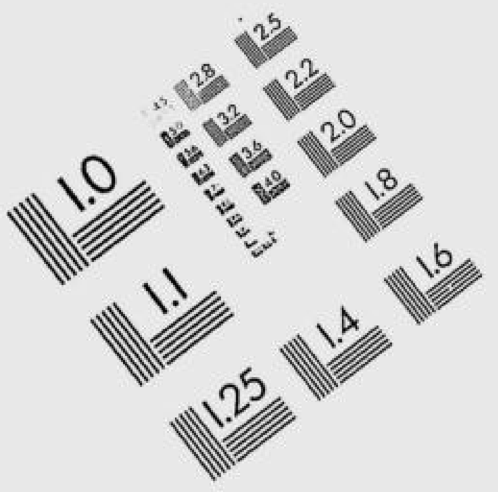
REEL 304

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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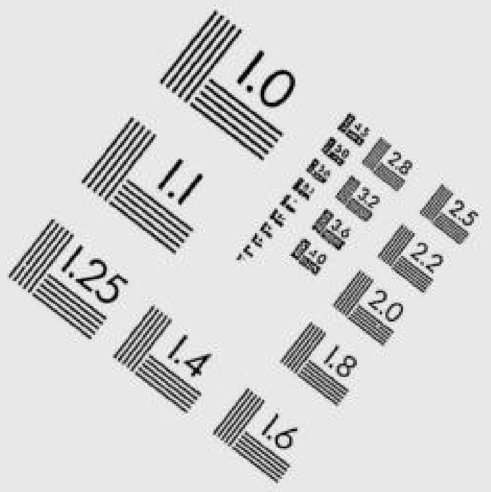
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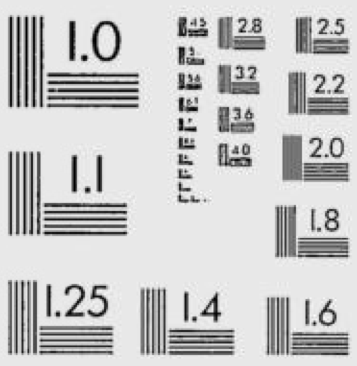
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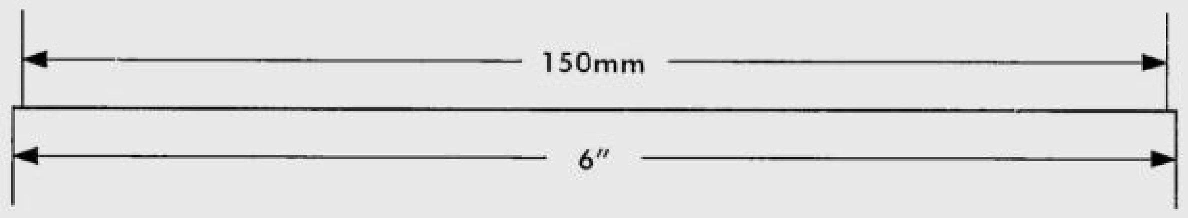

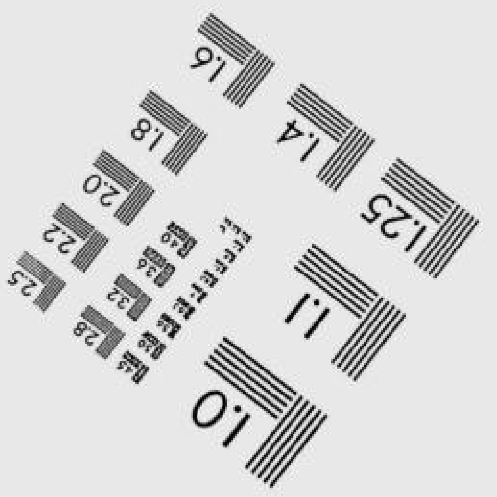
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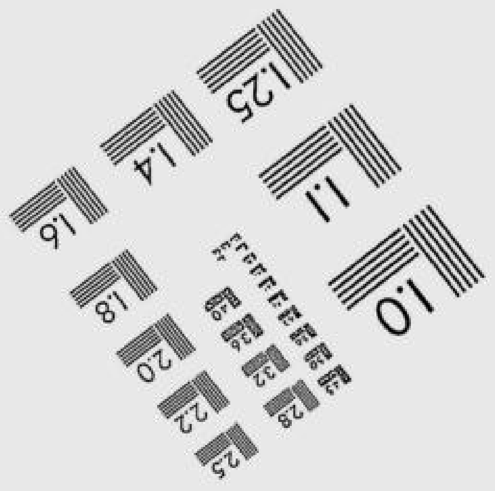
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